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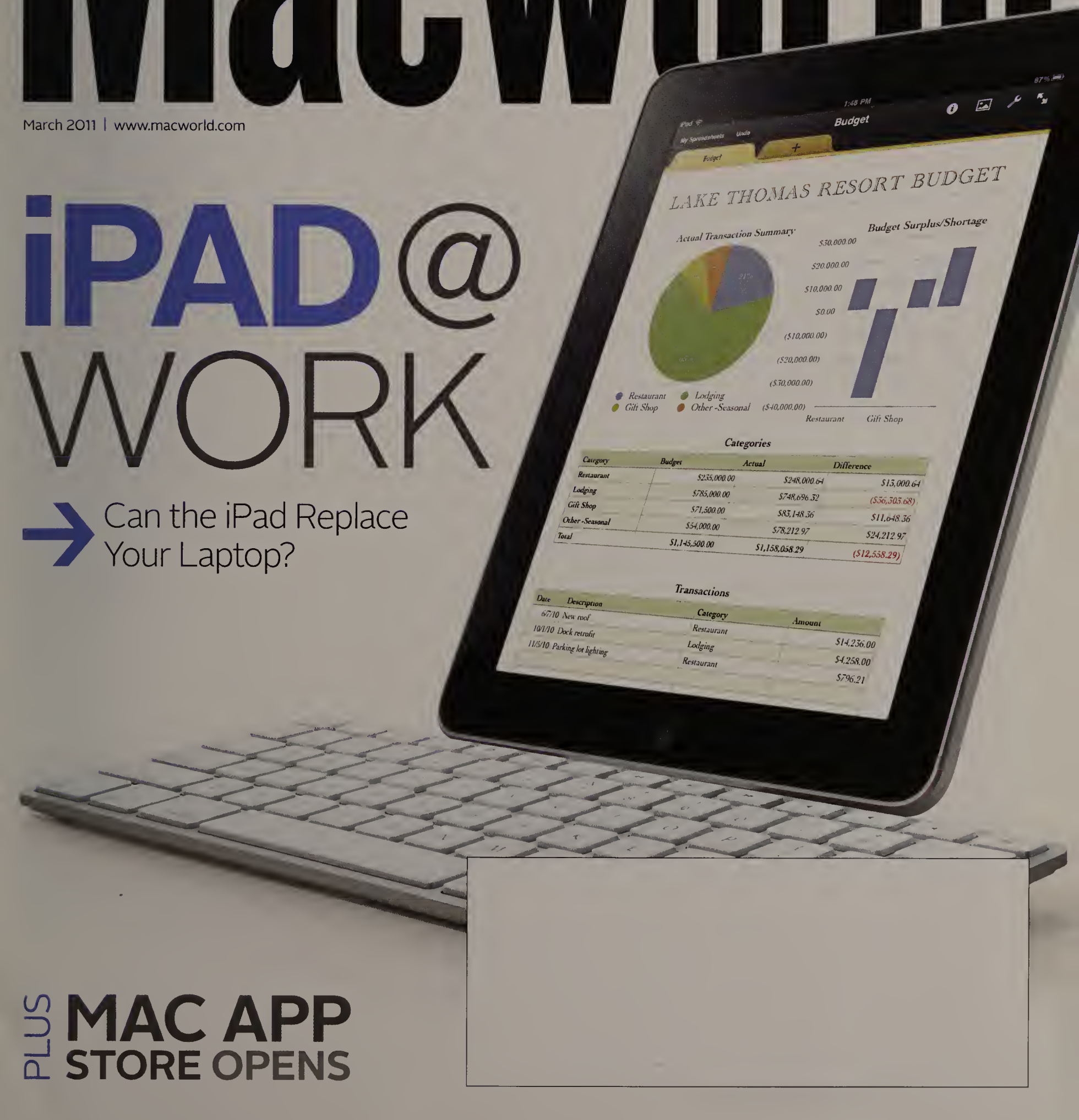
PLUS MAC APP STORE OPENS



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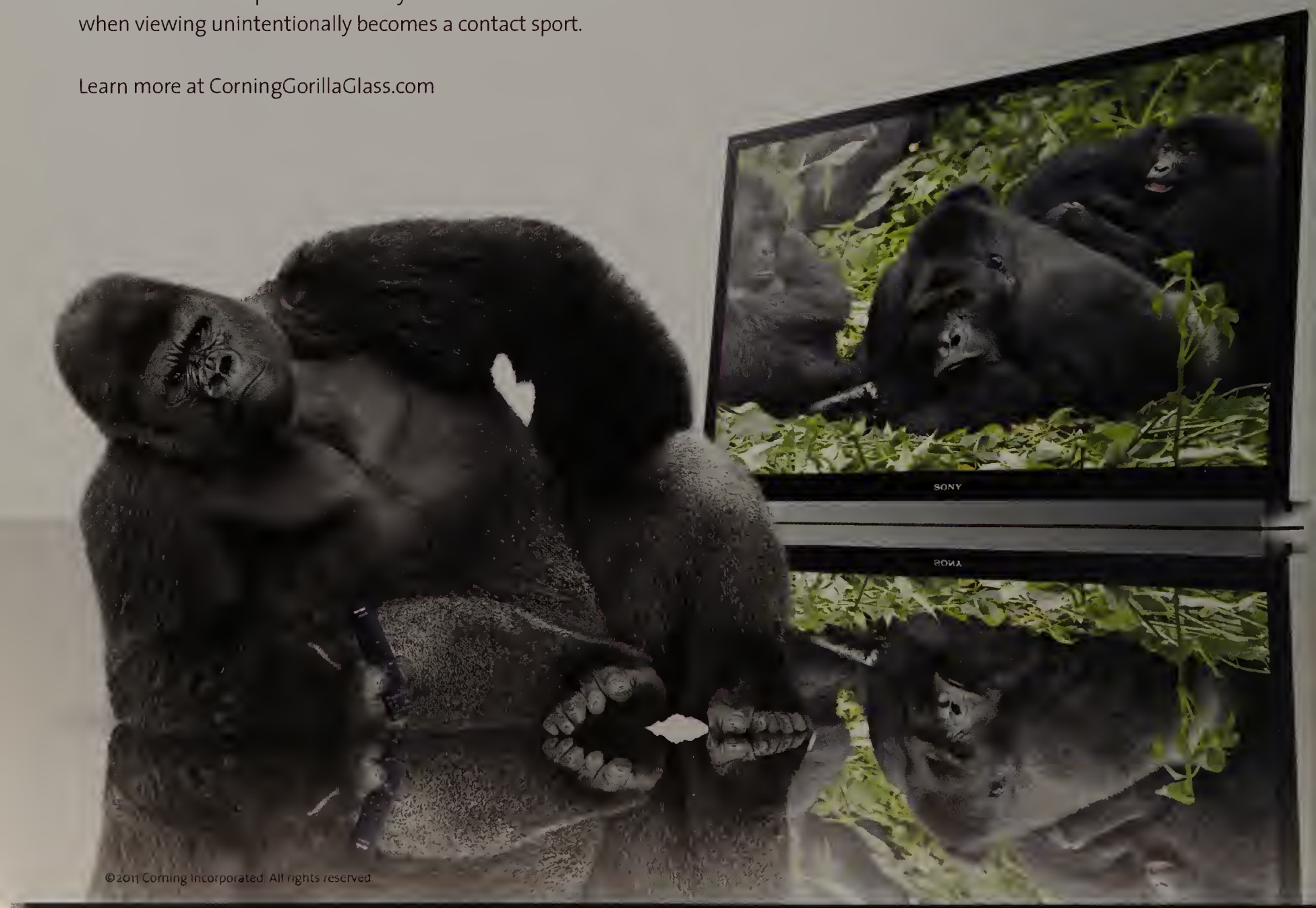

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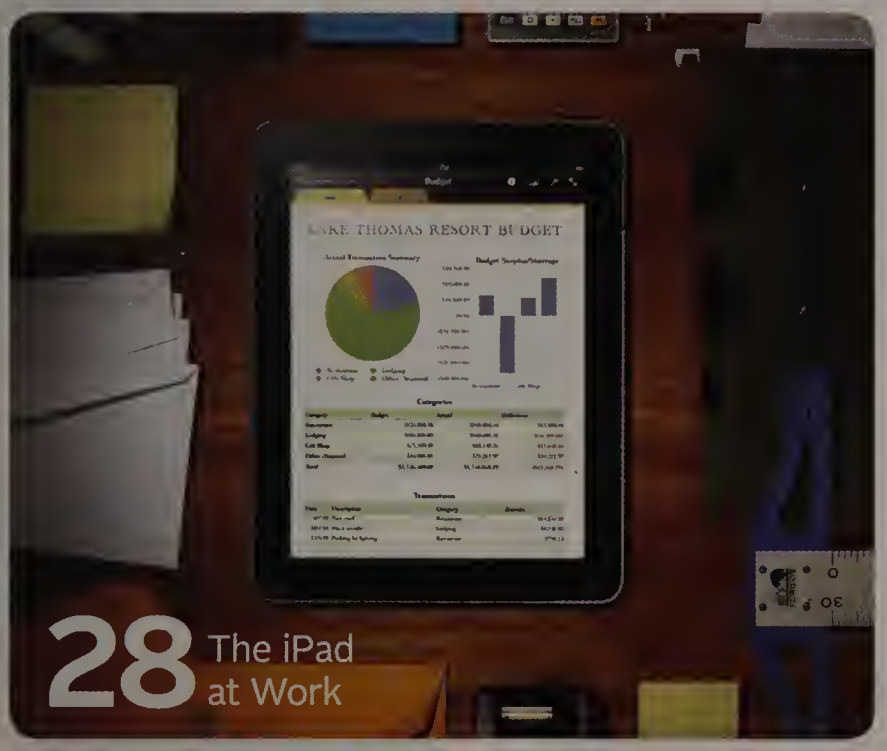

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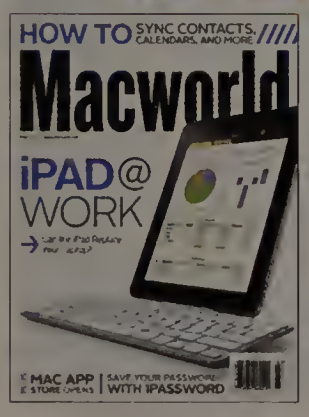

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MULTIMEDIA AT MACWORLD.COM

Check out our latest podcasts, slideshows, and videos

Podcast: Mac App Store Opens

A panel of *Macworld* editors joins host Christopher Breen to discuss the launch of the Mac App Store (macworld.com/6841).

We also recommend:

Slideshow: Looking Back at 35 Years of the Digital Camera (macworld.com/6842).

Podcast: Macworld Pundit Showdown IX (macworld.com/6843).

Slideshow: Low Light Photo Contest Winners (macworld.com/6844).

Video: Apple 2010 Year in Review (macworld.com/6845).

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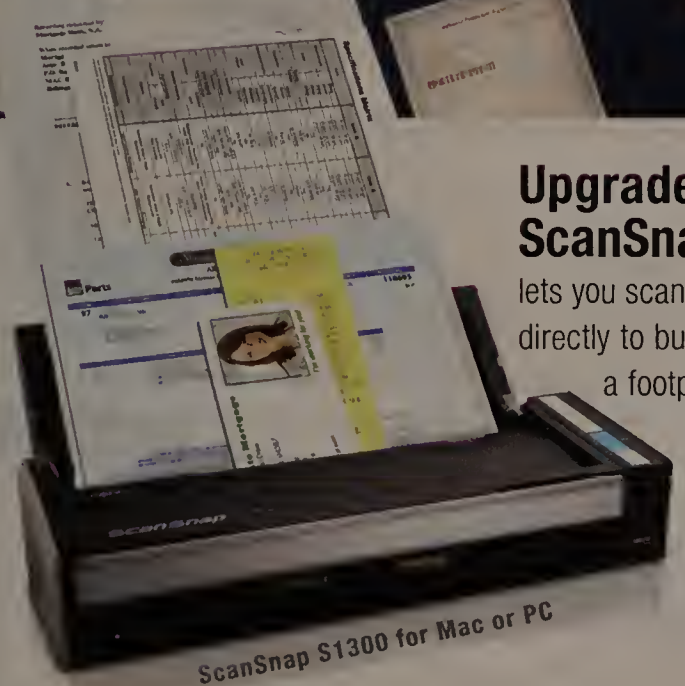

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 By Jason Snell

The One-Stop Shop

Why the Mac App Store is good for users, for developers, and, yes, for Apple too

When Apple launched the Mac App Store (see page 10), it brought a sales model that has worked incredibly well for the iPhone and iPad to the Mac. For veteran Mac users, the Mac App Store will be a change, but not an earth-shattering one. For new users, casual users, Mac developers, and Apple, however, it could be the biggest change to the Mac world since the transition to Mac OS X.

On a Quest

Longtime Mac users will remember a time when finding new software meant searching for Apple-savvy retail stores or convincing a friend with a cool program to give you a copy. The advent of Internet downloads made getting software a lot easier. But, even then, there was no central software repository, no one place to find new apps. Sites such as VersionTracker and MacUpdate came close. But all too often searches there produced nothing but avalanches of little utilities and minor updates. The Mac App Store could be that one place where users can easily find and download new apps.

Just the other day I was searching for a Mac app I wanted to download and try. As usual, I entered its name in Safari's Google search box. But as I hit the Return key, I wondered whether in a month or two I might instead just go to the Mac App Store first.

That store should also help developers, by bringing their wares to the attention of a wider audience. It will particularly help those who make the kinds of great, low-cost apps we review regularly in our Mac Gems blog on Macworld.com and in the associated print column. Mac Gems is incredibly popular with our readers, in large part (I believe) because it calls to their attention worthwhile programs they would have never known about otherwise. *Macworld* readers are generally savvy. Yet apparently, they still learn something new from Gems.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

The iOS App Store has turned millions of people who wouldn't normally download software into buyers.

For the Uninitiated

Many Mac users aren't as savvy as *Macworld* readers, however. Many of them would never even think of looking for new software to download from the Internet. For this audience, the software that comes with the Mac is enough, save perhaps for the occasional software update or a box of Microsoft Office.

The popularity of the iOS App Store shows that such habits can change. The App Store has turned millions of people who wouldn't normally download software into buyers. And not just buyers—*enthusiastic* buyers. People love discovering and buying apps for their iPhones, iPads, and iPod touches.

The Mac App Store could do the same. By default, the new Mac App Store icon is installed right next to the Finder in the Dock—basically the best spot for any app. Thanks to that icon, every new Mac user—and every old one who updates Snow Leopard to version 10.6.6—will now be able to discover third-party Mac software without much effort.

Of course, the Mac App Store is also good for Apple, and not just because the company is taking 30 percent off the top of every transaction. It's good for Apple because it increases the perceived value of the computers it sells. Apple learned this trick when it started including iLife on every new Mac, in addition to apps like Safari and Mail. For people who don't tend to buy and install software, having a new Mac handle e-mail, Web, and digital photos right out of the box is powerful.

Now every new Mac also comes with a Mac App Store, and anyone who's used an iPhone will understand it in a second. As a result, those new Macs will feel more useful and dynamic, which presumably will make their owners happier—and more likely to buy another Mac when it's time to upgrade.

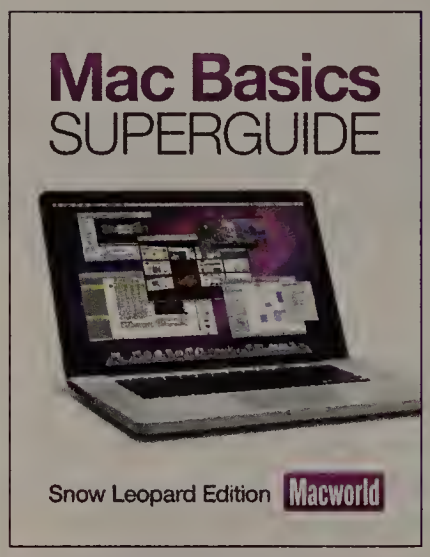
Back to the Mac

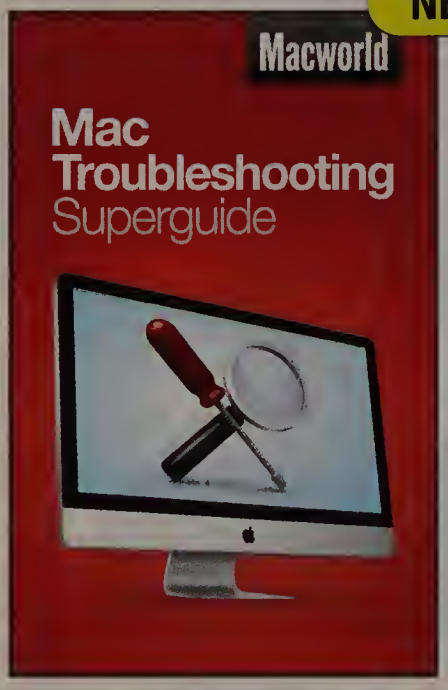
So is the release of the Mac App Store another example of how the Mac is becoming more like iOS? I suppose so. It's hard not to notice that some of the first apps to appear in the store—Angry Birds, Flight Control, and Twitter for Mac—look more like iPad apps than Mac apps.

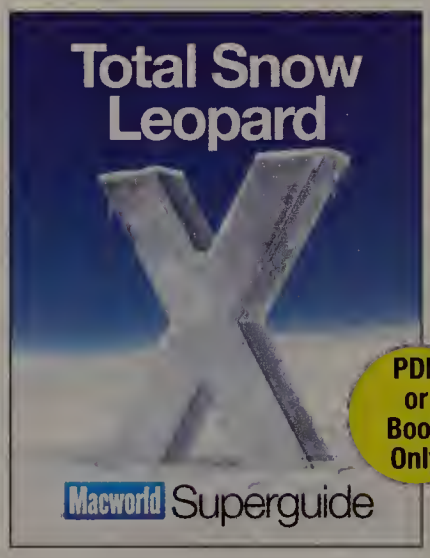
But let's not jump to conclusions. There are lots of great native Mac apps in the store, including Things, Delicious Library, OmniFocus, and Pixelmator. There's room for both kinds of apps in the Mac App Store. There's room, in fact, for *everything*. And that's great news for the Mac's present and its future.

Jason Snell is the editorial director of *Macworld*. E-mail him at jason_snell@macworld.com or follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/jsnell.

Macworld Superguides







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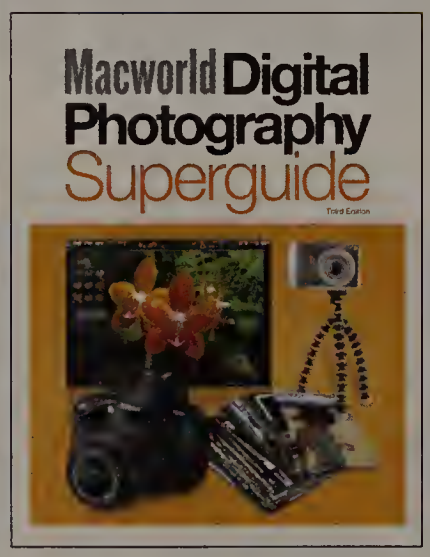

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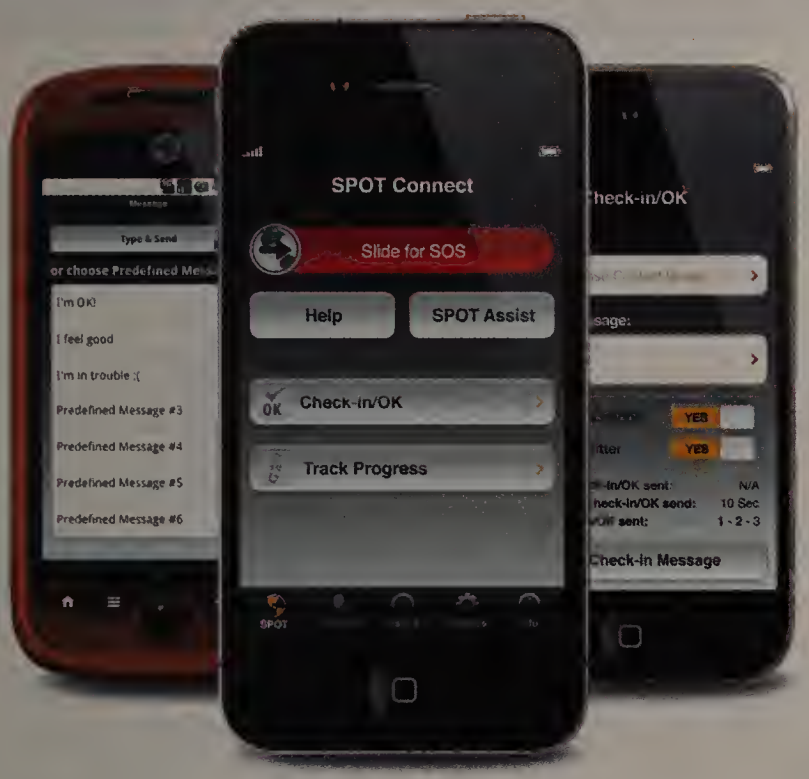

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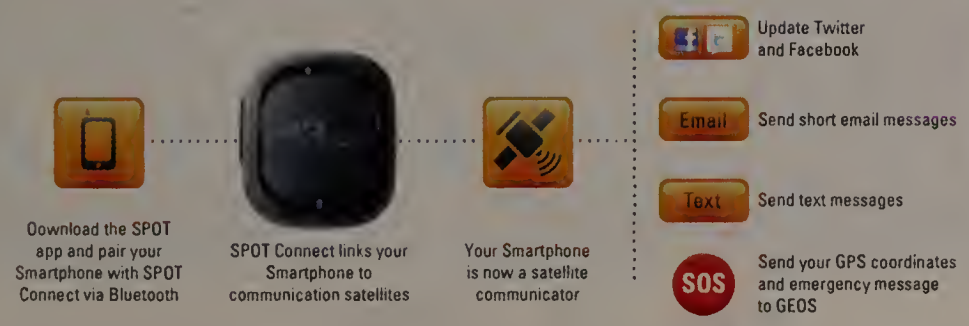

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Apple's Mac App Store Opens Its Doors

Will the new online marketplace for Mac software be a hit with users and developers?

BY JASON SNELL

Apple opened the Mac App Store on January 6, 2011, allowing Mac users to use the same mechanisms to buy software that they use to buy iOS apps and media via iTunes.

To enable the Mac App Store, Snow Leopard users need to update to Mac OS X 10.6.6, either by using the Mac's built-in Software Update or via a download from Apple's Website.

"The [iOS] App Store really revolutionized the way you acquired apps on a mobile platform . . . we think there's a really great opportunity to do the exact same thing on the Mac," says Eddy Cue, Apple vice president of Internet services.

Announced by Apple in October of last year, the Mac App Store lets Mac users discover and purchase apps, though some familiar Mac software won't be available due to the store's exacting requirements. According to Apple, more than a thousand apps will be available initially.

Once they've installed Mac OS X 10.6.6, users will find a new App Store app in the Dock. This new app, rather than iTunes, is the conduit to the store. But while the Mac App Store isn't within iTunes like its iOS counterpart, it's otherwise an interface that will be quite familiar to any iOS user.

The Mac App Store streamlines the process of purchasing Mac software: You buy the software with one click while using an iTunes ID and password. Apps are downloaded and installed automatically. And shopping for apps also has an iTunes feel, including charts for the top free, top paid, and top grossing apps, as well as the ability to browse by category.

Available Software

The Mac App Store offers stand-alone versions of six Apple apps that were previously available only as part of the iLife or iWork bundles.

The three key apps in the $49 iLife '11 suite (iPhoto, iMovie, and GarageBand) are now available via the Mac App Store for $15 each. The boxed iLife '11 suite, in contrast, costs $49, slightly more than the three apps à la carte, though the suite also includes iDVD and iWeb.

The three apps that make up the $79 iWork '09 suite (Pages, Keynote, and Numbers) are also available on the Mac App Store, for $20 each, undercutting the $79 price of the boxed suite. It's an even better deal if you're a user of only one of the apps.

"On the App Store, we didn't feel any need to force customers to [buy a bundle]," says Cue, "because we can package [the apps] individually. At the same time, given the apps we've built, we're highly confident that they'll sell well individually."

Apple is also selling its Aperture 3 photography software as a Mac App Store download for only $80. The boxed version cost $199.

Some major Mac software vendors, notably Microsoft and Adobe, weren't

present on the Mac App Store on day one. It's unclear whether Apple will work with those developers to bring their more-complex installation and licensing procedures into the Mac App Store, or if it will be incumbent on those companies to modify their approaches in order to fit the Mac App Store's guidelines.

Analysts: Positive Reaction

The technology-industry analysts *Macworld* spoke with seem to feel that Apple is making a savvy move in bringing the success of the iOS App Store to the Mac, suggesting that it's a strategy that introduces another difference between the Mac and PCs running Windows.

"It's groundbreaking," says Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies. "I think this will be more than just an experiment—I think it'll be quite successful within the Apple community."

"The computing universe has evolved in a huge way from the days when, if you wanted software, you went to Egghead and bought a shrinkwrapped box and took it home," says Gartner Group analyst Michael Gartenberg. "Even the largest Apple Store only sells a fraction of the software that's out there—there's a much larger universe out there that most consumers don't know about."

"It's the beginning of the death of packaged software," says Avi Greengart, research director for consumer devices at Current Analysis. "But it also shows the strength of the Mac platform. I think we're going to see developers embrace this."

"This is the atomization of the software market," Yankee Group analyst Carl Howe says. "The Mac App Store means that instead of buying Photoshop for $800, we'll see a lot more consumers buying an app for cropping photos and maybe two different ones for retouching, each of which will cost about $10. The consumer saves money and the developers can be more focused on things that consumers want instead of kitchen-sink app suites. Apple also wins, because it starts collecting a 30 percent cut of all software sales."

Picture This Postbox 2's Image Search feature allows you to see the images in a selected folder, without having to sift through your e-mail messages.

Postbox 2: An Excellent Alternative to Apple Mail

Easy-to-use e-mail client is filled with features

BY NATHAN ALDERMAN

REVIEW Apart from its slick tabbed interface, Postbox looks much like every other e-mail client for the Mac, but its differences quickly become apparent once you start using it. Its Conversations feature leapfrogs both Mail's and Microsoft Outlook 2011's in usefulness, displaying chains of e-mails in a single viewing window. You can expand and collapse each message in the conversation, and you can even see neatly organized summaries of previous messages in a thread.

Postbox's Account Groups let you collect and manage different sets of accounts; one for all your personal mail, and another for all your business-related accounts, for example. A new Quick Reply box reminiscent of Google's Gmail offers a no-frills way to swiftly dash off a response to a selected message.

The Focus Pane filters messages by attachment, user-assigned topic, date range, or one of a customizable list of your favorite contacts. View buttons at the top of the Postbox window work similarly to the Focus Pane, letting you quickly display all the messages, To-Do items, attachments, or images within a selected folder.

One of my favorite Postbox features is the Message Inspector, a sidebar that appears as you read messages. Here, Postbox gathers all the attached files and images, and even the Web links within the message, and puts them in one handy location. When you're composing messages, a similar feature allows you to search for images, attachments, and contacts without leaving the new message window.

Postbox 2 is built on Mozilla's Thunderbird framework, which allows users to extend the program with free, downloadable add-ons.

After a simple setup, you can also post to Facebook, Twitter, and FriendFeed from within Postbox. The program will pull user icons for your contacts not only from the Address Book, but also from Facebook or Twitter accounts where applicable.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Overall, I found Postbox 2 highly intuitive, with a well-written online manual and extensive help forums.

★★★★½; $40; Postbox, www.postbox-inc.com; full review, macworld.com/6794

MacBook Air: Is Flash Storage Reliable?

Macworld Lab puts the Air's storage to the test

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

The newest MacBook Air models use flash storage instead of hard drives. With this being the case, Macworld Lab was concerned about the ability of the flash storage to maintain its performance over time.

Flash memory's data cells can be written to only a finite number of times, so manufacturers often include wear-leveling technologies to prolong the flash memory's life. Also, write performance can suffer when flash memory begins to fill up over time. Some manufacturers use *over-provisioning* tactics, in which some of the chips' capacity is set aside so it can be used for background tasks and to swap for bad blocks. Many devices offer TRIM, a way of handling some of the trash-management duties that can also slow down write speeds, but TRIM currently isn't supported by Mac OS X. Apple doesn't talk in detail about its behind-the-scenes strategies for dealing with flash memory's shortcomings.

To find out how Apple's flash storage performs over the long haul, we put three Macs that use flash memory for primary storage through a torturous set of tests. We ran the AJA System Test, our Speedmark 6.5 disk tests, and digIloydTools' DiskTester Fill Volume tests on a 2010 13-inch 1.86GHz MacBook Air with 256GB of flash storage, a build-to-order 2010 27-inch 2.93GHz quad-core Core i7 iMac with a 128GB SSD, and a 2008 2.13GHz MacBook Air with a 128GB SSD.

After recording the baseline results (see macworld.com/6793 for the actual speed results), we erased and reinstalled OS X and migrated our data from a Time Machine backup. We then used Disk-Tester to write 2 million 8K files, erased the files, and ran the test again. Then we erased and reinstalled OS X and data from a Time Machine backup, and twice ran another torture test, digIloydTools' MemoryTester. After that, we erased the flash storage and reinstalled OS X, and restored the data via Time Machine.

After performing the torture tests, we ran our benchmark tests again. Unlike some of the third-party SSDs we've tested in the past, *the performance of the flash storage and SSDs in our MacBook Airs and our iMac was unchanged.* Despite all of the wiping, filling, stressing, and imaging we'd done on these poor flash storage devices, they performed identically to the way they had before being tortured. Great news.

We also tested to see how performance was affected when a flash storage device was near full capacity. I filled the 256GB flash storage in our 2010 13-inch 1.86GHz MacBook Air until there was just 5GB of remaining space available and ran the AJA System Test and file-duplication tests. Impressively, the results did not show any performance degradation. More great news.

Opera 11 Touts Browsing and Security Enhancements

BY MARCO TABINI

Norwegian software developer Opera Software has finally introduced version 11 of its flagship Web browser to the general public.

Opera 11 comes with a number of new features; among the most notable is "tab stacking," which allows users to combine multiple tabs into a group in order to reduce clutter. The new version also introduces extensions, a feature that all its major competitors have offered for some time (Safari being the most recent to introduce extension support when Safari 5 was released in June 2010).

Other additions include increased support for HTML5 and geolocation, enhancements to the browser's security systems, and better development tools; all of these enhancements are designed to put Opera on a par with recent advancements introduced in other desktop and mobile browsers.

Despite commanding a relatively small portion of the overall browser market (recent statistics give it a market share of between 2 and 3 percent), Opera has carved out a profitable niche for itself in the consumer-electronics market, where it's a popular choice among not only makers of set-top TV boxes, but also mobile-device and console manufacturers. It is, for example, the only browser available on Nintendo's Wii and DS devices.

Opera 11 is available as a free download at www.opera.com. The software requires an Intel-based Mac running OS X 10.4 or later.

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Dropbox 1.0 Brings Selective Sync to the Masses

BY SERENITY CALDWELL

Dropbox has been one of the easiest ways to sync files across multiple computers since its initial release in 2008. In December of 2010, the company officially rolled out version 1.0 of the program, bringing with it a whole host of improvements, including support for selective folder sync.

According to the company, the update features "huge performance enhancements" thanks to a completely rewritten back end; Dropbox claims that version 1.0 reduces the strain on your computer's memory by up to 50 percent. And on the Mac, the entire program has been recoded in Apple's Cocoa framework for a smaller download size (a 20 percent reduction).

The banner feature of 1.0, however, is undoubtedly Selective Sync: This allows you to select which folders and files found within your Dropbox folder appear on which of your computers. Each computer has a separate preference pane within the application, so you can, for instance, choose only certain folders to sync with your work computer while the rest of your files remain accessible on the Web.

Additionally, the update brings support for extended attribute sync. This allows users to easily upload and sync files with *resource forks* (parts of a file that certain programs use for storing information) without fear of data corruption or deletion.

Dropbox 1.0 is free and available for download in Mac, Windows, and Linux flavors at www.dropbox.com.

Google Makes Gmail Calling Free for All of 2011

BY LEX FRIEDMAN

Last August, Google introduced the ability to make and receive phone calls from within Gmail. At that time, the company made all calls to the United States and Canada free for the rest of 2010. In December, Google announced that it will extend the free calling offer throughout all of 2011.

To make calls from inside Gmail, you click on the Call phone link and type in the number you'd like to call. Google uses Voice-over-IP technology to make the connection. If you use Google Voice, you can connect Gmail to your Google Voice phone number, so that Gmail starts ringing when your number gets called. If you don't use the free Google Voice service, you can still place calls within Gmail, though you lack control over the number you'll appear to be calling from.

You can also place calls in Gmail to numbers outside the United States and Canada, but those calls will cost you.

Gmail calling is currently available only to users in the United States.

Macs: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	SPEEDMARK 6.5 [A]	FIND CODE [B]
DESKTOP						
iMac	Intel Core i3/3.06GHz	4½	$1199	21.5 inches	174	6432
	Intel Core i3/3.2GHz	4½	$1499	21.5 inches	179	6433
	Intel Core i3/3.2GHz	4½	$1699	27 inches	177	6434
	Intel Core i5/2.8GHz quad-core	4½	$1999	27 inches	196	6435
Mac Mini	Intel Core 2 Duo/ 2.4GHz	4½	$699	not included	100	6304
Mac Pro	Intel Xeon/2.8GHz (quad-core)	4½	$2499	not included	207	6458
	Intel Xeon/2.4GHz (eight-core)	4½	$3499	not included	216	6459
	Intel Xeon/2.66GHz (12-core)	4½	$4999	not included	261	6460
PORTABLE						
MacBook	Intel Core 2 Duo/ 2.4GHz (white)	4½	$999	13 inches	99	6207
MacBook Air	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.4GHz, 64GB	4½	$999	11 inches	85	6692
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.4GHz, 128GB	4½	$1199	11 inches	84	6691
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.86GHz, 128GB	4½	$1299	13 inches	108	6694
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.86GHz, 256GB	4½	$1599	13 inches	108	6693
MacBook Pro	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	4½	$1199	13 inches	106	6151
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	4	$1499	13 inches	137	6152
	Intel Core i5/2.4GHz	4½	$1799	15 inches	132	6153
	Intel Core i5/2.53GHz	4½	$1999	15 inches	137	6154
	Intel Core i7/2.66GHz	4½	$2199	15 inches	151	6155
	Intel Core i5/2.53GHz	4½	$2299	17 inches	137	6208

[A] Speedmark 6.5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard). For more information on Speedmark testing, go to macworld.com/6647. [B] In a browser's address field, typing in a find code after *macworld.com/* takes you to a product's review or overview.

PDFpen: Feature #2 – Redact Private Information

The affordable PDF toolkit

Can your PDFs keep a secret?

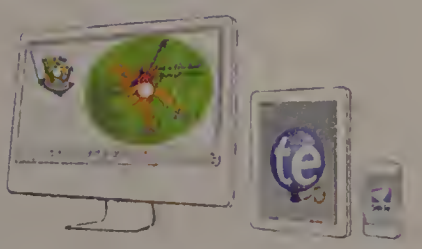
When you need to send out PDFs with private information, such as tax forms or medical records, you can control what gets shared—and what doesn't.

PDFpen lets you fully redact and remove text from your PDFs, not just black it out! Keep your PDFs buttoned up by making sure your private information stays private.

To see all the top 10 features of PDFpen, visit us at: www.smilesoftware.com/macworld

Smile

Macworld EDDY AWARDS 2009 WINNER



Software that's just right

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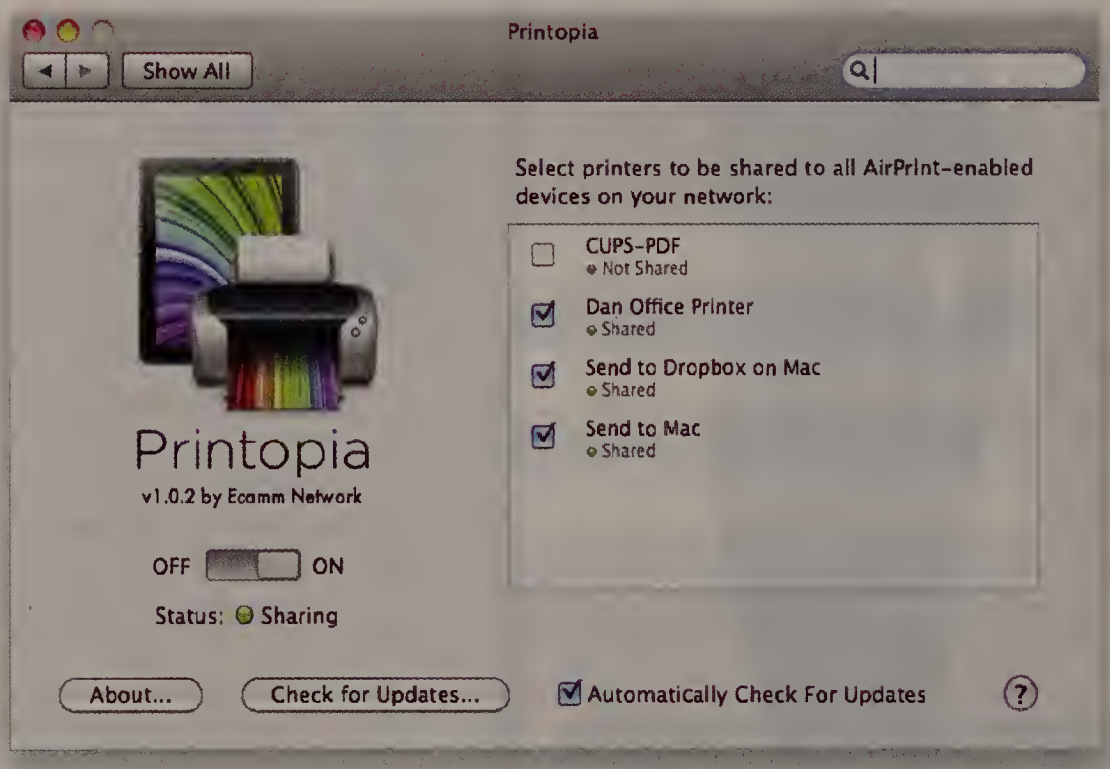
MAC GEMS

Discover Great, Low-Cost Mac Products **By Dan Frakes**

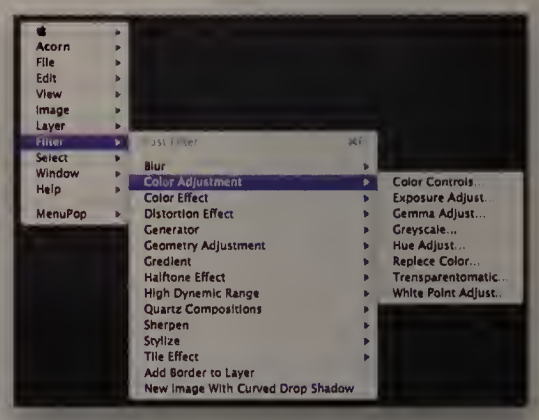


Printopia 1.0.2

PRINTING Apple's AirPrint feature lets you print directly from an iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch running iOS 4.2—but only to a limited number of AirPrint-compatible printers. However, AirPrint was originally billed as a way to print to *any* printer connected to your Mac. Printopia delivers that full functionality, letting you share all your Mac's configured printers, so you can print wirelessly to any of them from any iOS 4.2 device. Your iOS device and (awake) Mac just need to be on the same Bonjour-capable wireless network.

But Printopia also configures two *virtual* printers: Send To Mac and Send To Dropbox On Mac. Send To Mac lets you save a PDF of a document, or a JPEG or PNG version of an image, to your Documents folder on your Mac. If you have Dropbox installed, you can use Send To Dropbox On Mac to save the resulting file to your Dropbox folder, where it's then synced to all your other Dropbox-enabled devices. These features mean you don't actually need to print in order to find Printopia useful; for example, the Send To Dropbox feature is the easiest and fastest way I've found to get iPhone screenshots onto all my Macs, and I use the Save To Mac option to save receipts from Mobile Safari. Printopia works with Mac OS X 10.5 or later, letting Leopard users use AirPrint, too.

★★★★½; **$10; Ecamm Network;** macworld.com/6787



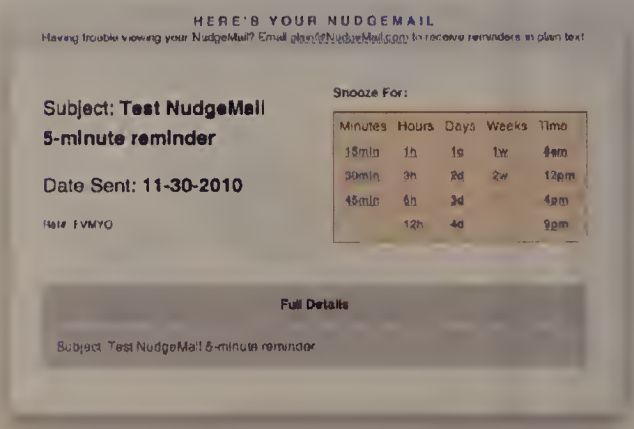
MenuPop 1.01

UTILITIES If you've got a large display, or multiple displays, the menu bar is often more than a flick of the wrist or finger away—it may even be on a different screen. MenuPop puts the menu bar's menus, in hierarchical form, right under your mouse cursor with the press of a keyboard shortcut. You can choose to show keyboard shortcuts for commands, change the menu font size, and display alternate menu commands—ones that normally require a modifier key—at all times. Keyboard jockeys will appreciate being able to use the keyboard to navigate MenuPop's menus.

★★★★½; **free; Binary Bakery Software;** macworld.com/6790

Go to Weblog

Read Mac Gems online (macworld.com/macgems) for longer reviews of these and other products.



NudgeMail

PRODUCTIVITY If you've ever sent yourself an e-mail to remember a task, NudgeMail is for you. This Web service uses a simple request syntax to send *scheduled* e-mail reminders. For example, a message with the subject 'Call dentist' sent to 'tuesday@nudgemail.com' will get you a reminder Tuesday morning. You set the time, day, or date of a reminder by including that info in the e-mail address, and you include any notes or other content in the body of the message. You can even "snooze" a reminder via links in the message.

★★★½; **free; NudgeMail;** macworld.com/6788

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booq

Create new realities

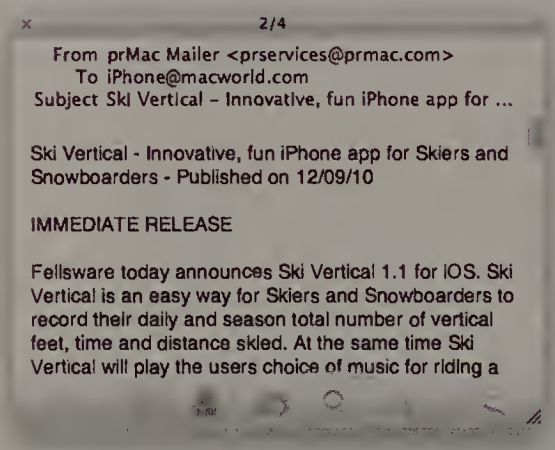
Bag: Cobra courier M, laptop messenger for MacBook Pro 15-inch ($195.00), visit booq.com for more details.
Model: Mathew Chaney, AIA/LEED AP/DBIA (Associate, Ehrlich Architects). Photography: Erik Borzi (erikborzi.com)

Neu 1.0.1

PRODUCTIVITY A popular feature in Windows is the capability to quickly create a new document right in the current folder. Neu brings this same feature to the Mac. Whenever you're working in a Finder window, you can use Neu in one of five ways to create a new document: via Neu's system-wide menu-bar menu, Neu's Dock menu, the Finder's Services submenu (located in the Finder menu), the Finder's contextual menus, or either of two configurable keyboard shortcuts. (Neu also offers options to automatically open the resulting file in the appropriate program and to rename the new file as it's created.)

Whichever approach you use, you'll see a list of possible document types. Neu includes a few stock types, but you can easily add your own templates. If a template includes content, the new document includes that content. Neu also offers an advanced feature for automatically substituting template text with dynamic data—for example, the date, your username, or the path to the new file.

●●●●; $10; Elegant Chaos; macworld.com/6789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From prMac Mailer <prservices@prmac.com>
To iPhone@macworld.com
Subject Ski Vertical – Innovative, fun iPhone app for ...

Ski Vertical - Innovative, fun iPhone app for Skiers and Snowboarders - Published on 12/09/10

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fellsware today announces Ski Vertical 1.1 for iOS. Ski Vertical is an easy way for Skiers and Snowboarders to record their daily and season total number of vertical feet, time and distance skied. At the same time Ski Vertical will play the users choice of music for riding a

Herald 1.2.3

E-MAIL Herald is a simple—and free—application that lets you keep an eye on your incoming e-mail, even if Mail isn't currently visible. Whenever new messages arrive, Herald's compact, floating window lets you preview those messages, one at a time. As you preview each message, you can choose to delete it, mark it as junk, view it or reply to it in Mail, or simply dismiss it to leave it marked as unread in Mail. In other words, Herald is essentially a way to triage incoming messages without having to switch to Mail itself.

You can choose which accounts—and even which mailboxes within each account—Herald should monitor. The program also offers a number of options for appearance and behavior.

●●●½; free; Erik Hinterbichler; macworld.com/6791

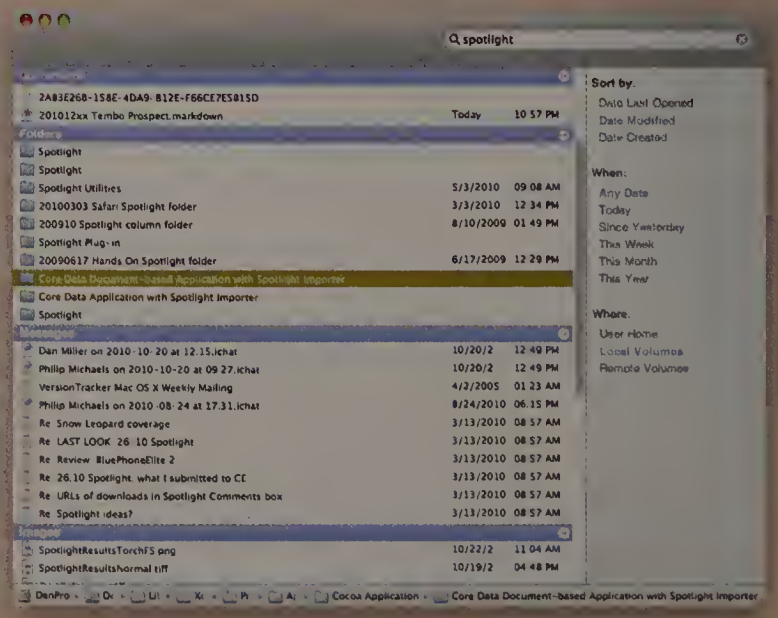
PROMISING PROSPECT

Tembo

UTILITIES Mac OS X's Spotlight search feature is a great tool for finding data on your Mac, but its interface leaves a lot to be desired—especially if you spent time using Tiger (OS X 10.4), which offered what many feel was a much more usable Spotlight. A new utility, Tembo (macworld.com/6792), currently in public beta, uses Spotlight for searching, but mimics Tiger's search-results window while also offering a number of useful extras.

Launch Tembo and enter your search term(s), and you get a Tiger-like window with results grouped by type: applications, documents, folders, e-mail and iChat messages, images, PDFs, and so on. Tembo displays the top ten results for each type; you can choose which groups appear, and in which order. Within each group, you can sort by date modified, created, or last opened, and you can filter the results by location or to show only recent items. The same actions for opening and previewing files in the Finder work in Tembo.

But the program's real power is revealed when you click the arrow icon for a group: You get many more options for viewing, sorting, and filtering just that group of results. For example, you can filter messages by subject, sender, and recipient; documents by file type; images by type and resolution; and videos by file type and codec. I'm looking forward to seeing Tembo mature into a 1.0 product.



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Made for iPhone

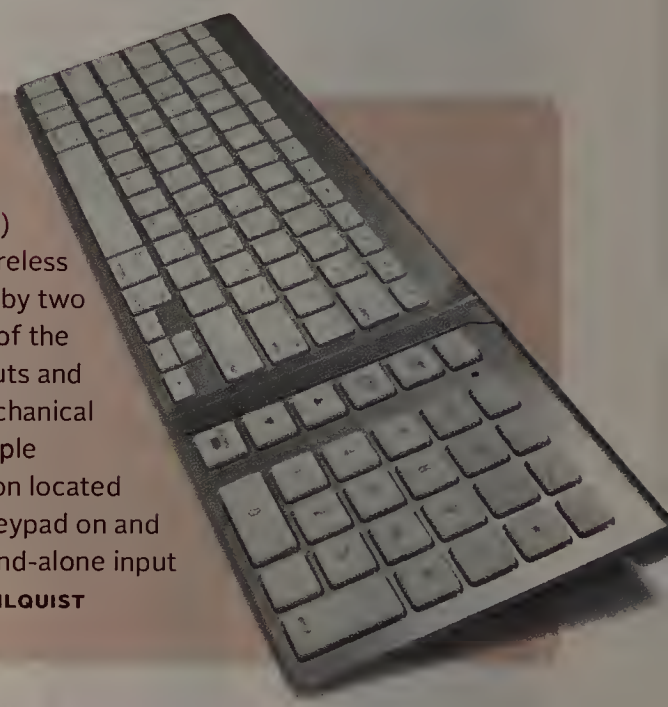
Macworld HOT STUFF

What We're Raving about This Month

Star Wars: Clone War Adventures

Always wanted to be a Jedi Knight? Your dream can come true, now that Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures is open to Mac users. Clone Wars is an online game that allows fans of the Star Wars TV Series (The Clone Wars) to fully experience the series' setting. Star Wars enthusiasts can wander around freely as a Jedi, a Padawan, or a Clone trooper, and experience what it's like to be a citizen in the Star Wars universe. Players can take up residence in their own customizable Star Wars–themed apartments. You can also travel deeper into the game's virtual world to solve Droid puzzles, participate in virtual events, and compete in various Star Wars–themed competitions. Players can also act out various Star Wars actions, like Speeder Bike racing, Lightsaber dueling, and Starfighter flying. Clone Wars' basic version is free to play, but if you want to experience a little more, you can pay a $6 monthly Jedi Membership subscription fee (clonewarsadventures.com).—**SAM FELSING**

Bluetooth Keypad



Cropmark LMP's Bluetooth Keypad ($40) brings numeric redemption to Apple's wireless keyboard. The keypad, which is powered by two AA batteries, latches onto the right side of the keyboard and includes navigation shortcuts and extra function keys. It also includes a mechanical push-through bar that can trigger the Apple keyboard's power button. A smaller button located next to the push-through bar turns the keypad on and off. The keypad can also be used as a stand-alone input device (eshop.macsales.com).—**DAVID DAHLQUIST**

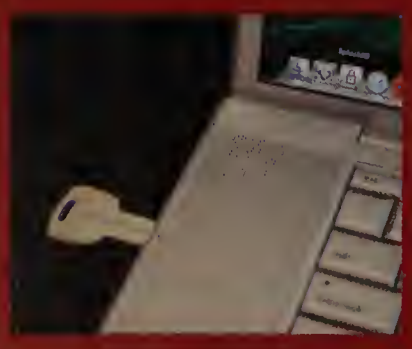
ForkLift 2

The new version of BinaryNights' $30 FTP client, ForkLift, features a Cover Flow viewer, Stacks for collecting files, and new tools for managing your transfer queue and your favorite FTP sites. A new Synclets feature lets you save folder-sync settings to the desktop or Dock for easy access, and a new Disklets feature lets you mount and manage your remote space on your Mac as if it were a USB drive. BinaryNights says that it also gutted and rebuilt many of ForkLift's existing features. Its transfer engine should be much faster, and you can now exercise more-precise control over the folder-sync feature by creating rules, even on a file-by-file basis (binarynights.com).—**DAVID CHARTIER**

Skitch

Skitch, the unique screenshot tool and sharing service, has finally made its version 1.0 debut. You can quickly snap screenshots or photos with your Mac's iSight camera, add annotations with drawing and text tools, and share your creations on the Web either publicly or with private URLs. You can upload images to Skitch.com, MobileMe iDisk, Flickr, or your own FTP Webhost. A template system makes it easy to constrain or crop images to specific dimensions, and full Website snapping with Safari lets you capture an entire page no matter how tall it is. Skitch 1.0 is free; Skitch Plus, which has more features, is available for $20 per year (skitch.com).—**DAVID CHARTIER**

SPLASHID KEY SAFE



When you live online, you start to collect a long list of passwords (you *are* using a unique password for each Website you access, right?). The $30 SplashID Key Safe helps you organize your passwords with its SplashID password-manager software. The Key is a USB drive with 2GB of storage, but it also includes Mac and Windows versions of SplashID. Plug it into your computer, enter a password, and you can then launch the software when you can't remember your password for your banking site, FTP server, network login, Amazon account, and more. SplashData also offers multipacks, so you can buy the SplashID Key Safe in quantities of 5, 10, 25, or 50 (splashdata.com).—**ROMAN LOYOLA**

cameraderie

Meet Archerfish, the Thinking Camera™.

Archerfish and your iPhone are going to be good friends, because Archerfish sends video alerts when it sees events that are important to you.

A wireless surveillance camera that understands what it sees? How smart. No wonder it gets along so well with your iPhone.

See Video Surveillance Done Right℠ at *thinkingcamera.com*.

Archerfish solo

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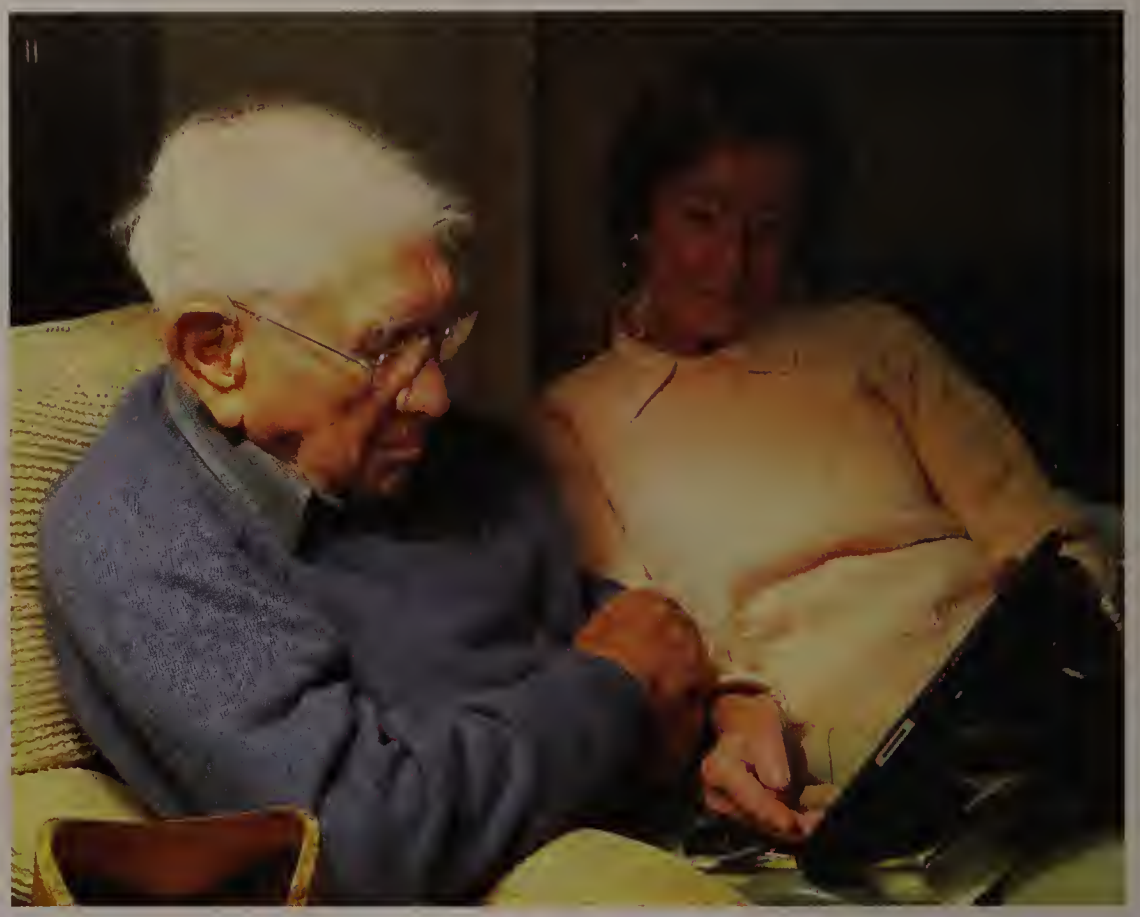
The iPad and the Centenarian

How Apple's newest device changed the life of a hundred-year-old

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN



Not long ago, I had the opportunity to visit with my favorite 100-year-old—Lew, my mother's husband. His birthday was just a couple of weeks away and, as you might imagine, with a century of stuff tucked away here and there, he's a hard man to shop for.

But not this year. This year he gets his own iPad.

Last summer, my sisters and I convinced my mother to get an iPad, figuring it would be an easy way for her to check her e-mail and surf the Web. She and my older sister visited the local Apple Store and returned with a 16GB Wi-Fi iPad. I configured her e-mail account, bookmarked a few favorite Websites, and left her to it.

During my recent visit I found that she has expanded her horizons. She's now an avid Words With Friends player, and has downloaded a few e-books.

It's this last purpose that brings us back to Lew. With the "for a 100-year-old" caveat in mind, he's in great shape. He gets around with the aid of a walker, he goes to the gym twice a week, he reads three papers a day, and he follows every ball caught, dropped, kicked, or thrown by a UCLA team.

He's also a great reader, but he requires large-print books and he's read through most of the ones he cares to from the local library. He'd like to revisit some of his favorites, but they aren't available in large print.

But thanks to the iPad, many now are.

The day before we returned home from our trip, my mother asked Lew to put down the book he was reading and take a look at the Dick Francis e-book she'd purchased from the iBookstore. She placed the iPad in his lap, launched iBooks, adjusted the font size, and asked him to read the first page aloud to confirm that he could see the print clearly. Then she showed him how to turn and bookmark pages and use the table of contents.

With a century of stuff tucked away here and there, he's a hard man to shop for. But not this year. This year he gets his own iPad.

He looked at the large-print book in his lap, then back at the iPad, and said, "This is the end of libraries for me. How marvelous!"

Reports are that the next day he called my mother into the den, requested "that machine," asked her to show him the Dick Francis book again, and the iPad wasn't seen for another three hours. Reading on the iPad is now part of his daily routine. This is terrific, because Lew need never want for readable books again. On the other hand, it also means my mother has to wait to lay a little WWF *zygote* smackdown on my older sister until after Lew goes to bed. And that—as much as the miracle of e-books for the aged—may best explain Lew's 101st birthday present.

Survey Ranks AT&T Last Among U.S. Carriers

BY DAN MOREN

While we've all privately—and sometimes publicly—griped about our cell phone carriers, it's reassuring to see those opinions echoed elsewhere. *Consumer Reports*' latest ranking of carriers backs up what iPhone users have long known: Consumers are not very happy with AT&T.

Apple's original iPhone partner in the United States came in dead last in the survey of 58,000 *Consumer Reports* readers.

In fact, AT&T scored the lowest possible ranking in eight of the nine surveyed categories. Furthermore, *Consumer Reports* says that half of the AT&T customers it talked to were iPhone users, who were particularly disenchanted, rating Web and e-mail quality lower than users of similar smartphones on other networks.

In a statement provided via e-mail to *Macworld*, an AT&T spokesperson said that the carrier is constantly looking to improve its performance.

In the meantime, AT&T will now face competitive pressure from Verizon Wireless, which announced that it will begin selling the iPhone 4 in February (macworld.com/6864).

iOS Devices: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE[A]	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE[B]
iPad	16GB	Wi-Fi, ♦♦♦♦; 3G, ♦♦♦♦	Wi-Fi, $499; 3G, $629	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	6000 Wi-Fi 6001 3G
	32GB	Wi-Fi, ♦♦♦♦; 3G, ♦♦♦♦	Wi-Fi, $599; 3G, $729	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	6002 Wi-Fi 6003 3G
	64GB	Wi-Fi, ♦♦♦♦; 3G, ♦♦♦♦	Wi-Fi, $699; 3G, $829	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	6004 Wi-Fi 6005 3G
iPhone 3GS and 4	8GB (3GS)	♦♦♦♦½	$99	3.5-inch color	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	6255
	16GB (4)	♦♦♦♦	$199	3.5-inch color (Retina)	10 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 7 hours of 3G talk time	6256
	32GB (4)	♦♦♦♦	$299	3.5-inch color (Retina)	10 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 7 hours of 3G talk time	6257
iPod Touch	8GB	♦♦♦♦½	$229	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6553
	32GB	♦♦♦♦½	$299	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6554
	64GB	♦♦♦♦½	$399	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6555

[A] All prices are Apple's prices. [B] In a browser's address field, typing in a find code after *macworld.com/* takes you to a product's review or overview.

News Reading on iPad Eating Away at Print

BY DAN MOREN

Many thought that the iPad would save journalism, but a survey by the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri found that the iPad could have a deleterious effect on print newspapers, with many iPad users likely to axe their print subscriptions in favor of consuming news on their tablets.

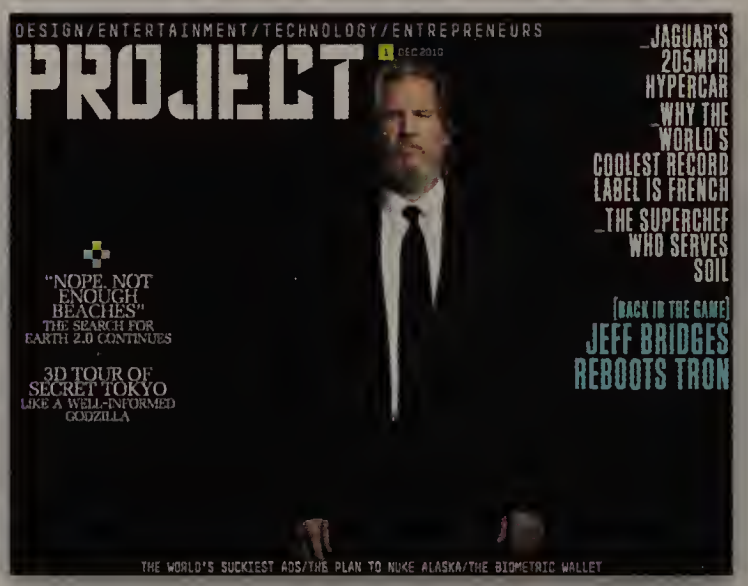
The survey talked to more than 1600 iPad users: 84.4 percent of them said that following current events was one of the main tasks they used the iPad for, with almost half of those surveyed saying they spent an hour or more reading news on a typical day. While the regular consumers of news tended to read in both digital and print forms, the more they used the iPad, the less they tended to read printed newspapers: 58 percent of respondents who subscribe to print newspapers and spend more than an hour a day reading news on their iPad said that they were very likely to cancel those print subscriptions in the next six months; 10 percent said that they had already canceled.

What drives this shift? Many users rated the experience of reading on the iPad either slightly better or roughly the same as reading print media. When asked what would drive users to digital news over print, the most often-mentioned factor was "a price lower than the price of a print subscription." This seems to get to the nub of the issue: One of the factors favoring digital news consumption over print media consumption is the fact that, by and large, digital news is available for cheap or free.

So, is print media's goose cooked? Naturally, one survey does not a future reveal, but it's clear that the industry has some challenges ahead of it.

Virgin Releases iPad-Only Magazine: 'Project'

BY DAVID DAHLQUIST



Last November, at a New York City press conference, Virgin CEO Richard Branson and his editorial team showed off Virgin's new digital publication for the iPad, *Project*.

Branson bills the publication as the "first truly digital magazine for creative people, by creative people." *Project* will focus on technology, entrepreneurs, design, and entertainment, and will profile influential people in these fields. Branson noted that the focus of the magazine will be on people who are important to their fields, rather than on celebrities and big-name stars. Though, with Jeff Bridges adorning the first issue's cover, it's clear they've made room for marquee names as well.

Project's editor in chief, Anthony Noguera, said that he believes the iPad is "the most exciting thing to happen in generations" for media.

During the press conference, Noguera gave a live demonstration of the app. The publication takes full advantage of the iPad's gesture-based controls, and was clearly designed to maximize interaction. You can take a virtual tour through Tokyo, led by five prominent residents; you can view photos of the new Jaguar concept car—and even listen to the sound of its engine purring; touch a picture of Jeff Bridges, and watch him come to life.

The *Project* app is free, but each month's issue will cost $3 as an in-app purchase. Unlike traditional magazines, however, the content of each issue will evolve throughout the month, with updates made on a regular basis.

SPOTLIGHT ON iPHONE 4 CASES

The Little Black Book

Pad and Quill's The Little Black Book (macworld.com/6817) lays down the charm with its travel-diary design and hand-crafted wood frame. The folio-style case has a black, faux-leather binding, a wraparound strap to keep your phone safe, and a classic red bookmark to complete the look. The case can come with an opening for the iPhone's camera ($40) or without it ($30). An iPhone 3G and 3GS model sells for $40.—DAVID DAHLQUIST

What's New at the App Store

Infinity Blade Hacks, Slashes Its Way into App Store

Infinity Blade ($6; macworld.com/6818), a visually stunning action RPG for the iPhone and iPad from Epic Games, is ready to do battle. You, as the hero, must explore the Dark Citadel, upgrade your skills and weaponry, and fight a line of Titans before facing the vile God King himself. In order to dispatch enemies, you use touch gestures to attack, dodge, block, and cast spells. You can also test your might against your friends via Game Center.—DAVID CHARTIER

Google Latitude App Surfaces for iOS

Google Latitude (macworld.com/6819) is a free iPhone client for Google's location-based social network, which allows you to see your friends' locations on a map. iOS 4's background processing also means that Latitude can keep your own location continuously updated, even when the app isn't active (you can also disable this if you prefer). If privacy is a concern, you can manually set or even hide your location.—DAN MOREN

VoodooPad Makes Leap from Mac to iPhone, iPad

VoodooPad for iOS (macworld.com/6820), a $10 offering from developer Flying Meat, is a slimmed-down version of its desktop counterpart; it gives users the power to create documents that interlink and cross-reference information. The app also enables users to sync back and forth with the desktop version of VoodooPad. While the current version doesn't support rich-text formatting, the developers say they plan to add it in a future release.—JOEL MATHIS

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Energy-efficient protection for peace of mind

When the power goes out, our Back-UPS units go to work. They instantly switch your iMac to emergency power, allowing you to work through brief power outages or safely shut down so you won't lose valuable files. They also feature surge outlets to safeguard your electronics and data from "dirty" power and damaging power surges—even lightning. Plus, their energy-efficient design reduces electricity use, so you start saving money the minute you plug in a Back-UPS. And power-saving outlets automatically shut off power to unused devices when your iMac is turned off or on standby, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.

Trusted insurance for what matters most

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The High-Performance Back-UPS Pro Series

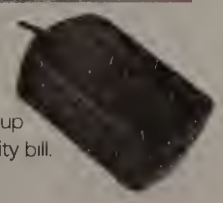
High-performance Back-UPS Pro units deliver cost-cutting, energy-efficient features. Power-saving outlets automatically shut off power to unused devices when your computer is turned off or is on standby, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.
(BR700G shown above)

The energy-efficient ES 750G

The Back-UPS ES 750G boasts innovative power-saving outlets, which automatically shut off power to unused devices when your computer is turned off or is on standby, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.

- 10 Outlets • 750 VA/450 Watts
- 70 Minutes Maximum Runtime
- Coax and Telephone/Network Surge Protection

The best-value ES 550G



The Back-UPS ES 550 uses an ultra-efficient design that consumes less power during normal operation than any other battery backup in its class, saving you money on your electricity bill.

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APP GUIDE

Software for Your iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad

iPHONE/iPAD

Capo 1.1

MUSIC Capo for the iPhone helps you learn how to play the music stored on your iOS device, allowing users to import songs from their iTunes library and manipulate them in ways that can save both time and effort in the learning process. Once you've imported a file, you can pick sections of the song to loop, which can make things easier and quicker when you're trying to learn a guitar solo or a difficult passage. But wait, Capo's got an even cooler trick—it allows you to slow down songs, or sections of songs, to one-quarter of the original speed without affecting pitch. If you'd like to adjust the pitch up or down, you can do that, too. Capo's easy to use, pleasing to look at, and as helpful as all get out.—JAMES GALBRAITH

★★★★; $20; SuperMegaUltraGroovy; macworld.com/6823

iPHONE/iPAD

Speak It Text to Speech 2.5

PRODUCTIVITY Speak It makes text-to-speech technology viable for anything from hearing articles read aloud to creating a stock of prerecorded messages. Type or paste text into a field, and tell the app to read it back. Speak It also offers options for adjusting text size, reading volume, and playback speed. The app makes excellent use of screen real estate, and the different voice options ensure that users can find one they like.—ROB DE LA CRETAZ

★★★½; $2; John Stefanopoulos; macworld.com/6822

iPHONE

360 Panorama 3.0

PHOTOGRAPHY Manually stitching together photographs in an image editor to create panoramas, let alone 360-degree panoramas, can be taxing. But you can skip the time-consuming process by using 360 Panorama, because the app builds the image in real time, using a video-like system. The overall result is fairly seamless, but the edges may be a bit uneven, depending on the steadiness of your hand. The app is exceptionally easy to use, but it won't let you edit the photo once it's been captured, so those uneven edges may require further tweaking elsewhere.—JAENA RAE CABRERA

★★★★; $3; Occipital; macworld.com/6821

APP GEMS

Remote Control

Rowmote ★★★★½ Control your Mac from afar with this combination remote, keyboard, and trackpad app (macworld.com/4858).

We also like:

RemoteTap ★★★★ macworld.com/4333

Mobile Mouse Pro ★★★★ macworld.com/6827

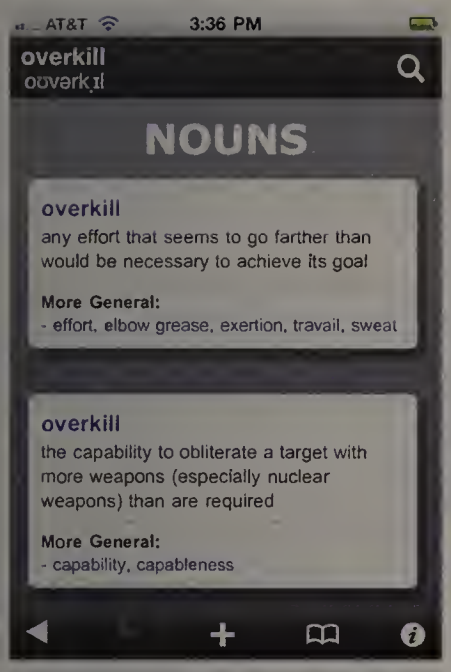
Find more great iPhone and iPad utilities at macworld.com/6665.

iPHONE

Astronut

GAMES As the titular character of Astronut, your straightforward goal is to hop between celestial bodies like planets and stars, navigating ever deeper into space until you reach each level's finish line. Along the way, you'll collect star shards and power-ups, and have to avoid malicious aliens, black holes, and other obstacles. It's addictive fun, with excellent cartoony space graphics and sound effects, though the addition of more levels or a free-play mode would make the game feel more replayable. Astronut is a free download, but once you've blown through the first four levels, you'll likely feel a strong compulsion to pony up $2 for the in-app purchase of 20 more levels.—LEX FRIEDMAN

★★★½; free; The Iconfactory; macworld.com/6749



iPHONE

Advanced English Dictionary & Thesaurus 3.0

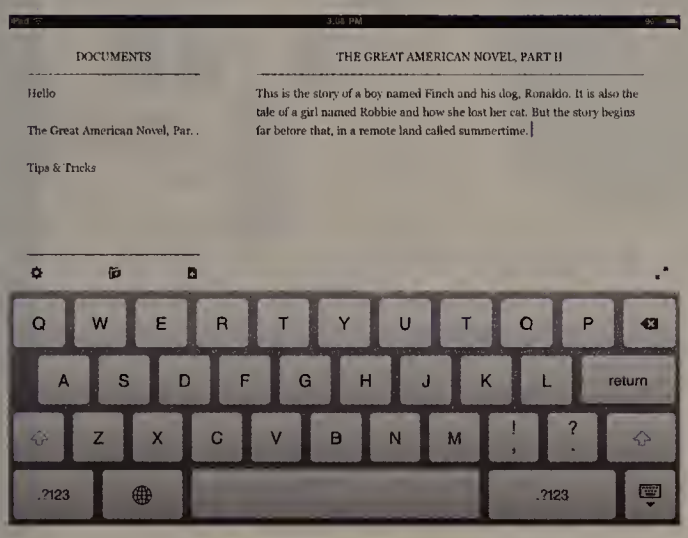
REFERENCE Advanced English Dictionary & Thesaurus does a good job at what it's supposed to do: define words. Its interface is pleasantly intuitive: If a word has multiple definitions, the app does a great job at separating the definitions. The word-link functions included in the thesaurus and elsewhere are incredibly helpful for getting more information about a word. My one complaint about the app is that to increase an entry's font size, you have to go to your iPhone's setting's menu, click on the app's icon, and then increase the size.—SAM FELSING

4 stars; $1; jDictionary Mobile; macworld.com/6824

iPHONE/iPAD

PlainText

PRODUCTIVITY As the name implies, PlainText is a basic text-editing app that offers up a tiny but useful feature set in a minimalist interface. One of the app's most appealing features is its ability to link with your Dropbox account, letting it constantly sync your changes in the background or when you close the app. What PlainText lacks is an option to e-mail a document from within the app, a feature that the developer says is in the works for a future release. PlainText for iOS is a beautiful, thoughtfully designed tool created for a specific purpose. It makes creating basic text documents a real pleasure.—JEFFERY BATTERSBY



4 stars; free; Hog Bay Software; macworld.com/6730

More Reviews

See more iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch apps we've tested at iOS Central (macworld.com/4164).

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE*
Lego Harry Potter: Years 1–4 1.1 Warner Bros. Entertainment	adventure game	$5	4½	6813
360 Web Browser 1.2 Digital Poke	Web browser	$1	4½	6814
Diacarta 1.1 Squnch	day planner	$2	4	6815
Alarm Clock HD Pro 1.2 iHandySoft	alarm clock	$3	4	6816
Cocktails HD 2.0 Pocket Cocktails	bartending app	$5	4	6464

* In your browser's address field, typing a find code after *macworld.com/* directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/6813 takes you to our review of Lego Harry Potter: Years 1–4.

ESSENTIAL APPS

Publish Yourself

Speak your mind, show the world what's happening, and keep an eye on your important stats, no matter where you are (macworld.com/6826).

Blog with iBlogger 4½ Pen blog posts for most popular platforms.

Ego 4½ Keep tabs on your traffic and stats.

Tumblr 4½ Quickly and easily post pictures, text, audio, and more.

HootSuite for Twitter 4 Stats, scheduled tweets, and multiple accounts for the Twitter power user.

iPAD

Corel Paint It Show 1.0

LIFESTYLE Paint It Show re-creates your photos, brushstroke by brushstroke, in the artistic style of your choice (oil, impressionist, modern, and so on) accompanied by music stored on your iPad. You can share your masterpieces via e-mail or Facebook, or save them in your photo library. You can even save unfinished photos.—DUNHAM SHALAT

4 stars; $1; Corel; macworld.com/6825

App Guide

Get more reviews, including reader reviews, as well as listings for every iPhone app at AppGuide.com.

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My Spreadsheets
Undo
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Actual Transaction Summary
21%
Restaurant
Gift Shop
Lodging
Other -Seasonal
Budget Surplus/Shortage
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($40,000.00)
Restaurant
Gift Shop
Categories
Category | Budget | Actual | Difference
Restaurant | $235,000.00 | $248,000.64 | $13,000.64
Lodging | $785,000.00 | $748,696.32 | ($36,303.68)
Gift Shop | $71,500.00 | $83,148.36 | $11,648.36
Other -Seasonal | $54,000.00 | $78,212.97 | $24,212.97
Total | $1,145,500.00 | $1,158,058.29 | ($12,558.29)
Transactions
Date | Description | Category | Amount
6/7/10 | New roof | Restaurant | $14,236.00
10/1/10 | Dock retrofit | Lodging | $4,258.00
11/5/10 | Parking lot lighting | Restaurant | $796.21
Side First

The iPad at WORK

Is the iPad really ready for business?

When the iPad first appeared, many people immediately decided that it was good for entertainment, but not for real work. Given its lack of a physical keyboard and of business-strength software, the tablet was obviously more toy than tool.

So why do we regularly see iPads in meeting rooms, on planes, and in shoulder bags that once carried laptops? The question doesn't seem to be whether or not the iPad is ready for business; the question is, *how* ready is it? What can the iPad do for work? What can't it do?

To get some answers, we asked *Macworld* editorial director Jason Snell to compare his iPad and his MacBook Air as work tools. We asked Joe Kissell to look at ways to work with Microsoft Office documents and PDFs on an iPad. And we asked Kirk McElhearn to survey iPad apps that let you edit and sync plain-text notes.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

LIGHTER THAN AIR

The MacBook Air versus the iPad as a work machine

BY JASON SNELL

When introducing the new MacBook Air in October 2010, Steve Jobs asked, "What would happen if a MacBook and an iPad hooked up?" It's one of the stranger things Jobs has ever said on stage, but it got the point across: With its small size, light weight, and flash storage, the new MacBook Air is the most iPad-like Mac that Apple has ever made.

But how comparable are they, really? More specifically, which one is the better device for getting work done, the 11-inch MacBook Air or the iPad? The answer depends on how you define *work* and what compromises you're willing to make.

HARD FACTS

Sporting the same aluminum casing and the famous Apple logo, the 11-inch Air and the iPad are definitely cousins. The Air is about seven-tenths of a pound lighter than the iPad. In two dimensions (thickness and depth), it's of comparable size. If you lay the iPad atop the MacBook Air, you'll see that the Air is a little more than two inches wider than the iPad.

But that comparison skips over one important point: the iPad is always open, ready for use at the push of a button. The MacBook Air works only when you open its clamshell and put it on a surface where you can type, use the trackpad, and see its screen. The iPad, by contrast, can be used in a lot of places where a traditional laptop really can't.

But that very disadvantage is also the Air's biggest physical advantage over the iPad: It needs more room because it's got a physical keyboard. The iPad has that virtual on-screen keyboard, but if you want to use a wired or wireless keyboard, it won't form an integrated unit that will rest on your lap. (A few iPad cases, such as the ZaggMate [zagg.com] and the ClamCase [clamcase.com] try to solve that problem.)

For the past couple of months, I've alternated between carrying an iPad and a MacBook Air on my commute. I tend to choose one or the other based on whether or not I'm planning on typing a lot. Back in November, for example, as part of National Novel Writing Month, I wrote 2000 words a day, every day; to maintain that pace, I needed to work on the bus to and from work. I used the MacBook Air the entire month. That's not to say I can't write on the iPad, but it's much slower than on the MacBook, and there's absolutely no way to use an iPad plus keyboard comfortably on the bus.

I suspect that for many people, the decisive factor in choosing the MacBook or iPad for work will be the keyboard. If you need to do a lot of typing in spaces that don't give you room to prop up your iPad and break out your wireless keyboard, the iPad simply isn't up to the job.

SOFTWARE SEPARATION

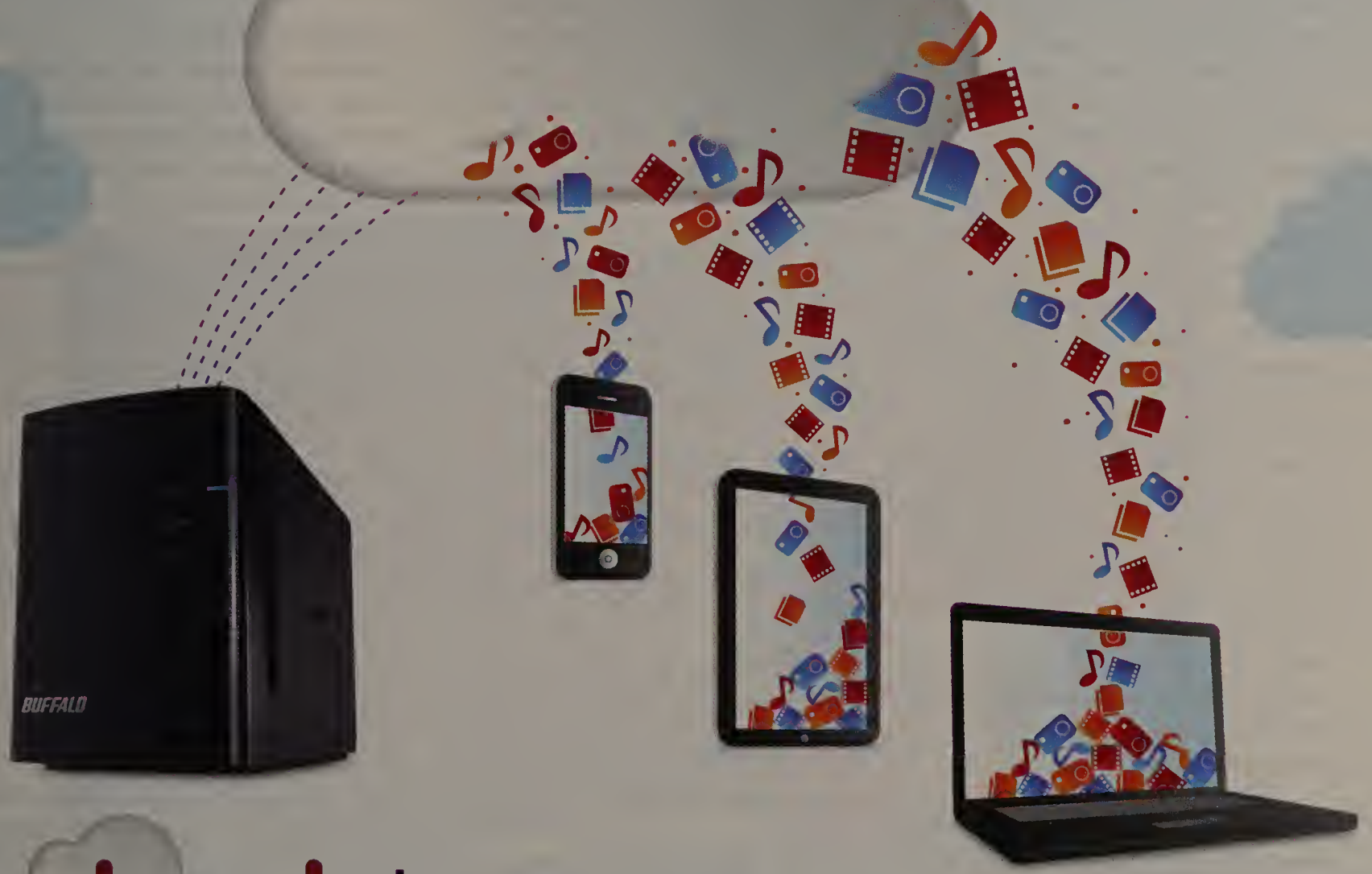
The other big difference between the two devices is the software they run.

Mac OS X is a mature computer operating system. It requires a mouse and a keyboard. Software abounds, from Microsoft Office to the smallest utility; none need be approved by Apple to be used on a Mac. The file system is also exposed, so you can see and manipulate all the files on your MacBook Air.

Apple's iOS, by comparison, is not yet four years old. Though it supports external keyboards, it's primarily based on touch input. Plenty of apps have been created for it, but most are still a bit bare-bones. For example, while there are lots of apps out there for editing plain text, precious few let you edit styled text. (For more on that, see Kirk McElhearn's roundup of iPad text editors, page 43.) You can't manipulate files directly as you can on the Mac; different apps have different ways of opening, saving, and sharing files, which can be awkward. Clearly this is an operating system with some growing to do.

All that said, I've found that there are some good iPad apps for doing much of

Meet your silver lining.



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my work. The Mail and Safari applications that come with the iPad are both excellent. In general, Apple's iWork suite does a good job of letting you open, edit, and save files in Microsoft Office–compatible formats, though file management and version control are still a mess. Keynote, in particular, is excellent—and you can even use it to give presentations on external monitors via a video adapter. (For more on that, see Joe Kissell's survey of iPad apps that work with Office-format documents, page 34.)

The addition of multitasking support in iOS 4.2 makes the iPad a better work machine. Quickly switching among multiple apps provides a huge productivity boost: I can read something in an e-mail, look it up on the Web, and then paste the results into a chat window. The fact that only one app at a time is *visible* on the iPad can also be a good thing: While I can have a text editor, IM app, and Twitter client all on screen and vying for my attention on my MacBook, on the iPad I have to focus solely on the app that I'm using—a boon for the easily distracted.

WHAT MAKES SENSE WHEN

The iPad is obviously a fantastic *consumption* device: I've read books, watched movies and baseball games, read RSS feeds, and played untold numbers of games on mine. And in terms of getting work done, the iPad has replaced both my iPhone and my MacBook Air as the device I check when I'm at home and need to check what's going on at the office. I take it to meetings as a note-taker and e-mail checker. I love its size and the fact that using it feels more casual than opening up a laptop.

For serious work, I bring along an Apple Wireless Keyboard and a case that lets me set the iPad on a flat surface such as a desk or table. I once wrote a 2000-word *Macworld* article at my in-laws' kitchen table using that setup, and it worked just fine. I can connect to our VPN with it, giving me access to our servers. Because I have the 3G iPad, I can get online with AT&T's 3G cellular data network without a separate device—something no Mac can do. And the iPad's battery lasts roughly twice as long as the MacBook's.

The iPad's main disadvantage is that, while you can do almost anything with it, sometimes a given task takes a lot more effort than it would on a MacBook Air. But if your work doesn't require a lot of keyboarding or apps that aren't available on the iPad (Adobe's Creative Suite, say), the iPad starts to make a lot of sense.

With an 11-inch MacBook Air at my disposal, I no longer feel that taking a laptop on a business trip is such a hardship. In fact, the 11-inch MacBook Air is smaller and lighter than the iPad and Apple Wireless Keyboard combination.

Just as importantly, the MacBook Air is a Mac. It can run Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Coda, BBEdit, Firefox, Parallels, and VMware—you name it. If your work requires one of these real Mac apps, or if you do technical or creative work that requires lots of horsepower, only a Mac will do. And if your job requires Web- or Flash-based apps, again the choice is clear. And if you spend the bulk of your day tapping furiously on a keyboard, the MacBook Air has the advantage.

EITHER OR BOTH?

The truth is, however, that this isn't an either-or question: If you can afford it, you can—like me—have both an iPad and a Mac. For that matter, you can also have a smartphone. They all overlap in functionality—but each also does something the others can't. There's less overlap between an iPad and, say, a MacBook Pro than there is between the tablet and a MacBook Air. Likewise, if you've got an iPhone, you've essentially got an iPad mini in your pocket all the time, and so you may not need that iPad. You might be better off pairing that phone with an Air.

FOR MANY PEOPLE, THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN CHOOSING BETWEEN THE MACBOOK AND THE iPAD FOR WORK WILL BE THE KEYBOARD.

But if you have to choose between the iPad and MacBook Air, it comes down to where you're willing to compromise. The iPad wins on size and convenience; I'd rather read PDFs, e-books, Websites, and RSS feeds on the iPad than on the MacBook Air. And I'd rather use an iPad in a briefing room to show off documents to colleagues or clients. And if all I need on a business trip is the Web and e-mail, the iPad will be enough. But for anything more than that, I still need my MacBook Air.

Jason Snell is *Macworld*'s editorial director.

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GETTING THINGS DONE

The best ways to edit Office documents and PDFs on the iPad

BY JOE KISSELL

» You still can't do *everything* on an iPad that you can on a Mac. Suppose you create a work document—a word processing file, spreadsheet, presentation, or PDF, for example—on your Mac, and want to edit or annotate it on your iPad and then return it to your Mac as intact as possible. It's doable, but it isn't necessarily easy, and some documents won't survive the round-trip completely intact.

OFFICE DOCUMENTS

It's taken for granted that pretty much anyone with a Mac (or Windows PC) can open Microsoft Office documents. (For the purposes of this article, *Microsoft Office documents* means those conforming to the older, and more widely used, Office formats: .doc, .xls, and .ppt, rather than the more recent XML-based .docx, .xlsx, and .pptx formats.) Even if you don't have a copy of Office itself, you can use any of the many inexpensive or free third-party applications that open Office documents and preserve most (if not all) of their formatting.

The situation is completely different on an iPad. For starters, there's no Microsoft Office for iOS. Although numerous apps can read and display Office documents, only a few (including Apple's iWork apps) let you edit them. Even then, because no iOS app currently supports all—or even most—of the features in Word, Excel, or PowerPoint, you may not be able to make all the changes you'd like with an iPad.

Even worse, you may lose formatting and other elements (such as tables and graphics) from a document in the course of round-tripping it between your Mac and your iPad. Most apps that support Office files must *import* them and then save them in a proprietary format; that process will strip out whatever document features the app doesn't support. When you return an edited document to your Mac, you must generally *export* it back to Office format; that may mangle the document even more. As a result, the document you get back may look nothing like the one you started with.

Just moving those documents to and from the tablet can be a challenge, too. Because iOS has no shared file-storage system, each app has its own mechanism for transferring files.

Most document-oriented apps transfer files using iTunes: With the iPad connected to your Mac, you select the tablet in the iTunes sidebar, click on the Apps tab, scroll down to the File Sharing section, and select an app. You then drag files from the Finder into the Documents list to copy them to your iPad, or drag them out to copy them back to your Mac. (Note that this process *copies* the files—it doesn't *move* them.) However, iTunes transfers aren't always convenient; among other things, you need to connect your iPad to your Mac via USB.

Some apps transfer files via cloud-based services such as Dropbox or MobileMe. You can sync a file from your Mac to the cloud, then from the cloud to your iPad. That system is convenient because it's wireless, but it does require an account with one of those services.

Other apps offer an Open In command, which lets you move a document to your iPad in one app, then open it in another. The most notable of these is Mail. That means you can e-mail yourself the file as an attachment, open the message on your iPad, tap and hold the attachment name, tap Open In, and choose an editing app. After editing it,

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you can then use the editing app's built-in Mail To command to send the document back to your Mac. But again, not every app offers such a feature.

Given all that, what's the best, most convenient way to transfer Office documents to your iPad, edit them there, and then transfer them back to your Mac? The answers depend on the kind of document you're working with.

Word (.doc) Only a few iPad apps can edit Word documents; even fewer can do a reasonably good job of it, including retaining all the character and paragraph formatting of the original.

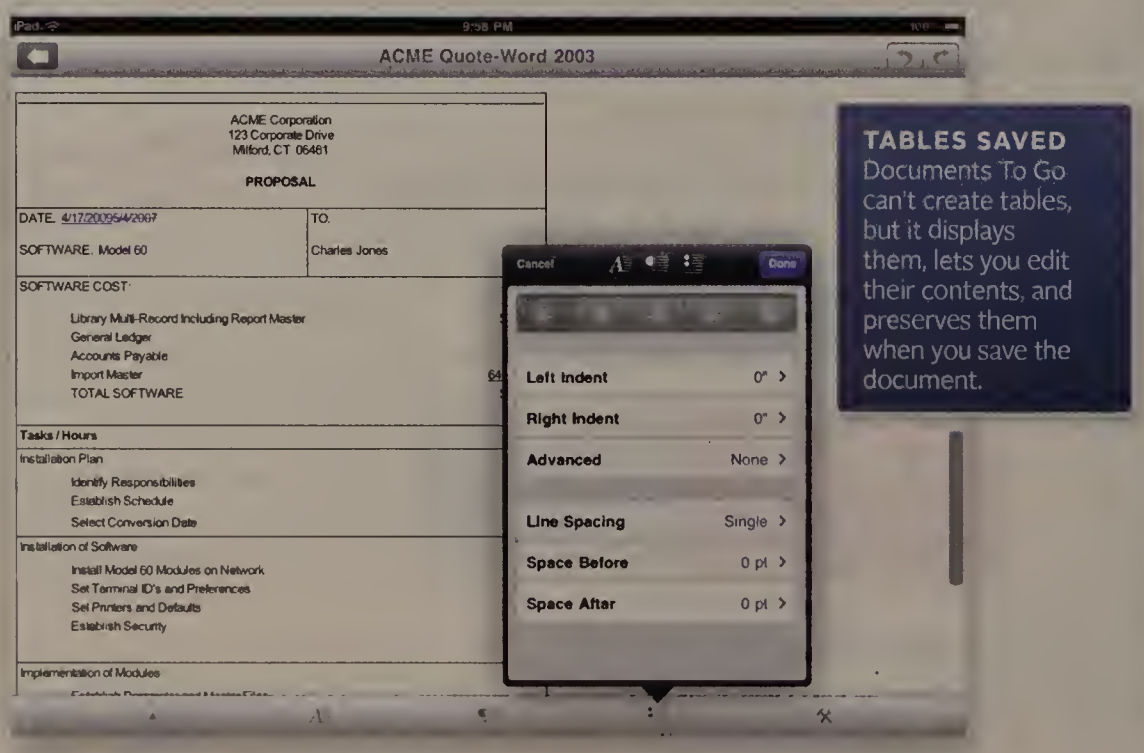
Apple's own Pages (★★★; $10; macworld.com/6129) is a natural choice: It's the most full-featured word processor for the iPad, it supports graphics and tables, and it can both import and export documents in Word format. However, importing a Word document into Pages permanently strips out many elements, including tracked changes, comments, footnotes and endnotes, and bookmarks. (Apple provides a list of everything that will change at macworld.com/6277.)

Doc2 HD (macworld.com/6828), a $6 word processor from byte2, lets you add and edit character font, size, style, and color; paragraph alignment and indentation; bulleted and numbered lists; tables; and graphics. Unfortunately, saving edited documents strips out quite a bit of Word formatting (including styles and bookmarks) and wrecks special characters. (The same vendor's $8 Office2 HD suite [★★★★; macworld.com/6468] does the same and adds spreadsheet editing.)

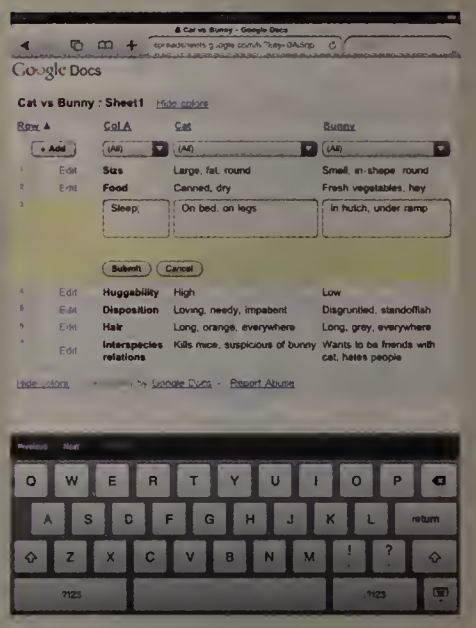
DataViz's Documents To Go (★★★★; ($10; macworld.com/6851) and Documents To Go Premium (★★★½; $17; macworld.com/6829) let you edit Word files, and both provide fair formatting controls. Although you can't add elements such as graphics or tables, you can see them in imported documents. Crucially, Documents To Go preserves all of the file's original formatting and contents during the import and export process, so even elements that can't be displayed (such as footnotes and tracked changes) appear correctly when the document returns to your Mac.

Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite (★★★★; $15; macworld.com/6858), from Quickoffice, also preserves the formatting and other elements of the original file when you edit and export it. Unfortunately, its editing capabilities are even more limited than Documents To Go's—only basic character styles (bold, italic, and underline), font, size, text and highlight color, and paragraph attributes such as alignment and bulleted lists are supported.

If you need to edit Word files on your iPad, I think your best choice is between Pages, which offers extensive editing capabilities but strips out elements from



TABLES SAVED Documents To Go can't create tables, but it displays them, lets you edit their contents, and preserves them when you save the document.



GOOGLE DOCS ON AN iPAD

Google recently made it possible to edit Google Docs files on an iPad, using Safari. Because you can upload Microsoft Office documents to a Google Docs account, that means you could theoretically edit Office docs on your iPad by using Google as an intermediary. But while that process does indeed work, it has some serious limitations.

For one thing, you have to convert uploaded documents to Google's formats before you can edit them. And, as is usually the case with file imports, that conversion strips out formatting and other features.

For another, when you visit your Google Docs account on an iPad, Google by default displays the mobile version of the site; the editing tools in that mobile version are extremely limited.

You could switch from the mobile to the regular version of Google's editors. (For example, in Google Documents, you tap the Desktop link at the bottom of the page.) But the controls in the desktop version were designed for use with a mouse, not a touchscreen; you could find it difficult (or even impossible) to do such basic things as selecting text or changing document margins.

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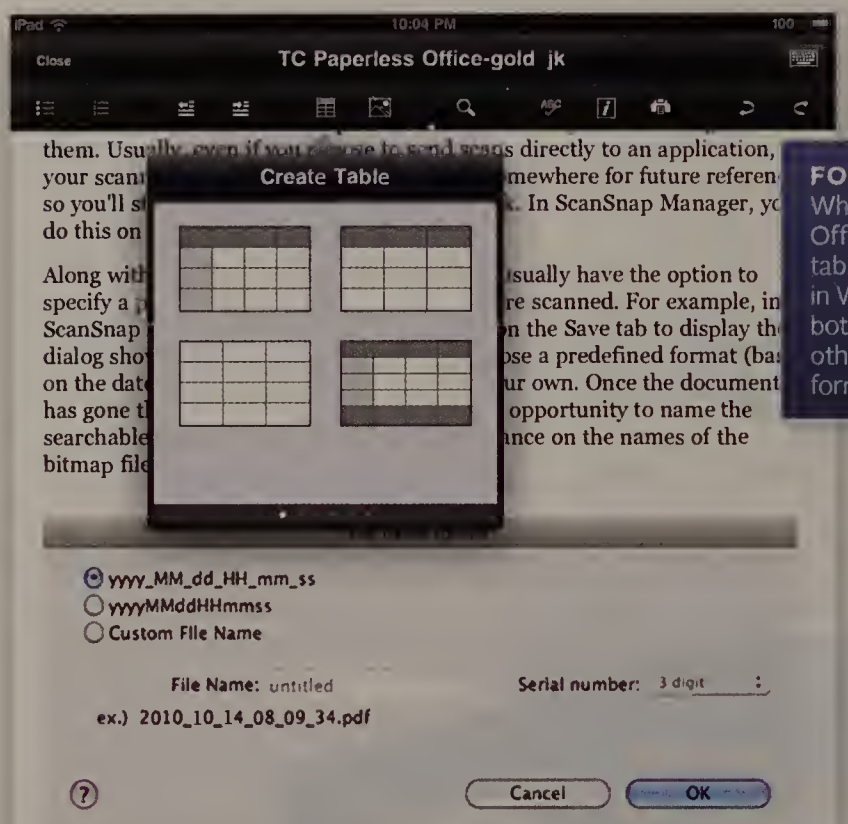

Figure 4: Most scanner software lets you choose what format filenames have when documents are first scanned.

ScanSnap Manager and OCR
If you have a Fujitsu ScanSnap scanner, you may notice that its software offers no fewer than three ways of performing OCR:
Scan to Searchable PDF: When you choose this command from the Application pop-up menu on the Application tab, ScanSnap Manager opens scanned documents in a separate applicationa customized version

FORMATS LOST
While Docs2 and Office2 let you edit tables and graphics in Word documents, both strip out some other key pieces of formatting.

the original, and an app like Documents To Go or Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite, which preserves the formatting and contents of the original but offers limited editing capabilities. In my experience, preserving document fidelity is more important than having the formatting tools; I'm more likely to be editing for content on an iPad than adding fancy features. Since Documents To Go has more formatting tools than Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite, that's the app I'd choose.

A typical workflow might go like this: Locate the file you want to edit on your iPad and drag it from your Mac to Dropbox or MobileMe iDisk. In Documents To Go, navigate to that file and tap it once to download it to your iPad; tap it a second time to open it for editing. After making any desired changes, tap the document icon in the lower left corner of the screen and then tap either Save (to keep the same name) or Save As (to give the file a new name). Tap the left arrow at the top of the screen and, when prompted to sync pending files, tap Yes. The app will then copy the edited file back to the cloud, where you can retrieve it from your Mac.

Excel (.xls) The story for Excel files is similar to that for Word files, except that your choices aren't quite so painful.

Because it can import and export .xls files, Apple's Numbers (♦♦♦½; $10; macworld.com/6130) will certainly do the trick. As with Pages, though, importing removes or alters spreadsheet elements you may want to preserve: Merged cells are split, while comments, headers, footers, and 3D charts disappear. Again, Apple provides a list of the import peculiarities at macworld.com/6278.

Sheet2 HD ($6; macworld.com/6831), the spreadsheet app from byte2, will let you edit Office spreadsheets (as will the spreadsheet module in Office2). Most spreadsheet features are preserved when you save a worksheet, but not all; for example, charts disappear altogether.

Documents To Go, Documents To Go Premium, and Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite also support Excel-file editing, offer a reasonable set of spreadsheet features, and preserve many elements, including charts.

If it's essential to maintain all formatting and data, Numbers, Sheet2 HD, and Office2 HD are not good choices; Documents To Go or Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite are your best bets. Between those two, your choice depends on the interface or feature set you prefer. If you need to edit both Word and Excel files on your iPad, get Documents To Go. If that's your choice, the workflow you'd follow is exactly the same as for Word files.

PowerPoint (.ppt) When it comes to editing PowerPoint documents on an iPad, your options are extremely limited. Office2 HD can *display* PowerPoint files, but it can't edit them. That means your options are either Apple's $10 Keynote (♦♦♦; macworld.com/6131) or Documents To Go Premium Edition. (An update to Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite added PowerPoint editing just as we went to press, so we weren't able to evaluate it.)

You won't be surprised to learn that Keynote removes formatting and data from PowerPoint documents upon import (see the full list of such changes at macworld.com/6832), or that Documents To Go Premium preserves all the formatting. However, Keynote on the iPad is vastly more capable at creating, editing, and showing presentations. So if

RICH TEXT FORMAT

On a Mac, Rich Text Format (RTF) is one of those lowest-common-denominator formats for styled text documents—nearly any app, including Apple's TextEdit, can read and write RTF files. But though many iOS apps can display RTF files, as far as I can tell not a single one lets you open an RTF file, edit it, and save the changed file in RTF. The Pages app can't open RTF documents at all. And even apps that let you open, edit, and save files in Word (.doc) format—including Documents To Go, Office2, and Quickoffice Connect—open RTF documents as read-only. So if you want to do anything more than view RTF documents on your iPad, your best option is to save them in Word (.doc) format first.

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MANY APPS CAN DISPLAY PDFs; THAT CAPABILITY IS BUILT INTO iOS. BUT ONLY A FEW CAN HANDLE ANNOTATIONS.

you need to make only minor edits, Documents To Go may be fine. But if you intend to do any significant work, or to use your iPad to run a presentation (by connecting it to a display via the VGA adapter), Keynote makes more sense.

The easiest Keynote workflow is to copy your presentation(s) to iDisk. In Keynote, tap My Presentations, then the Import button, and then Copy From iDisk. Navigate to the file and tap it to import it. To export the file when you're done, tap My Presentations and then the Action button, then tap Copy to iDisk, and tap PowerPoint. Finally, navigate to the desired location and tap Copy.

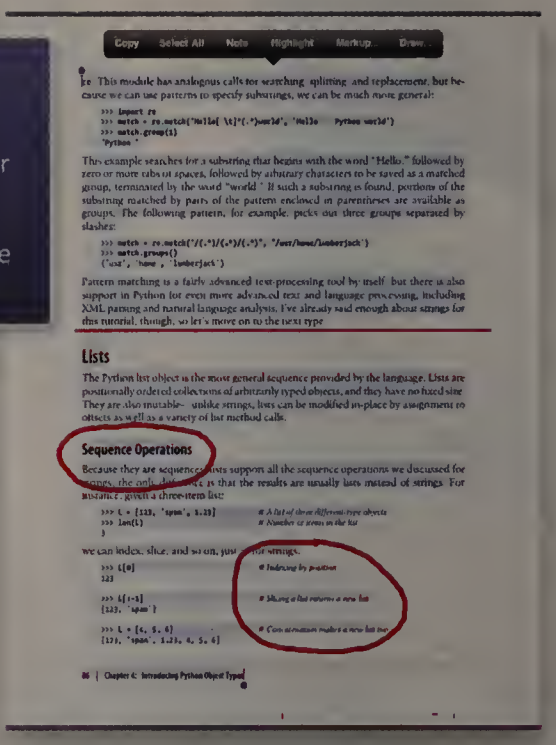
PDFs

Many apps can display PDFs; that capability is built into iOS. But only a few of them can handle annotations—such as the notes, highlighting, and other elements that you use to comment on the underlying text. Preview, PDFpen, Acrobat Professional, and other Mac programs let you add such markup. The question is how well annotations work on the iPad.

I tried half a dozen iPad apps that claimed to let you annotate PDFs in one way or another. First I used Preview to add a series of annotations (including shapes, overlaid text, a note, a URL link, highlighting, underlining, and strikethrough) to a PDF on my Mac. I then checked to see how well those annotations appeared in the various apps on my iPad. Next, on a fresh document, I added the kinds of annotations available in each of the six iPad apps, exported them back to my Mac, and opened them in Preview to find out how well they survived.

Half of the annotation apps I tried failed those tests. For example, neither LifeForms (free; macworld.com/6852) nor PDF Assistant ($2; macworld.com/6853) was able to display any of the annotations I'd added in Preview; SmileyDocs ($1; macworld.com/6854) displayed only an added link. None of the annotations I added in PDF Assistant showed up in Preview, and I was unable to export my annotated document to iTunes. (E-mail worked.) Annotations I added in LifeForms and then e-mailed showed up correctly, but exporting to iTunes didn't work. SmileyDocs doesn't even claim to be able to save its annotations outside the app.

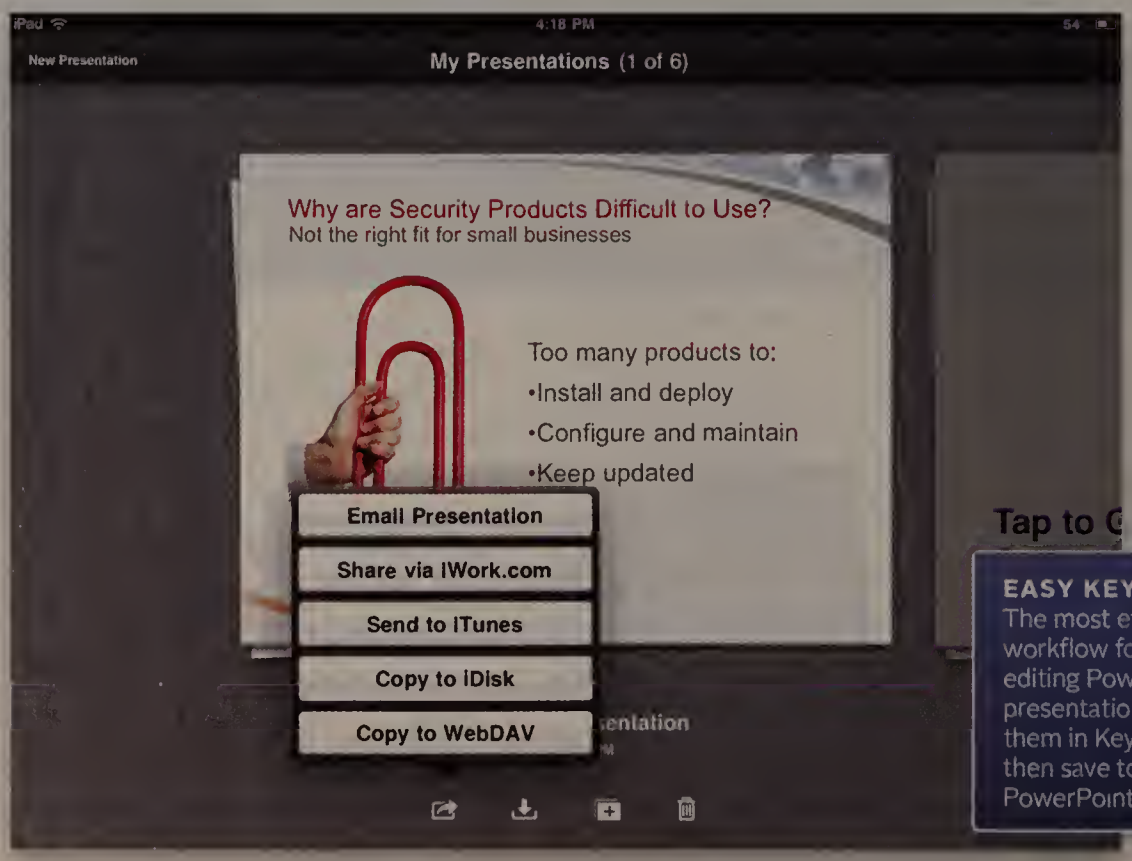
GOODREADER
Of the half dozen iPad PDF apps we tested, GoodReader did the best job of adding annotations and displaying those created on a Mac.



I had better luck with three other iPad apps. iAnnotate PDF ($10; macworld.com/6469) showed all annotations added in Preview except for shapes and overlaid text. In the app itself, I was able to add shapes, freehand drawings, highlights, notes, underlines, and strikethroughs, and all appeared correctly in Preview.

PDF Highlighter ($5; macworld.com/6855) showed (and missed) the same annotations from Preview as iAnnotate PDF. Although the annotations I added in the app came through on my Mac, the choices that it offered were few: only highlights, underline, and strikethrough, but no shapes or notes.

GoodReader for iPad (★★★★½; $3; macworld.com/6136) was the only app to faithfully display every annotation from Preview I threw at it. Likewise, nearly all the annotations I added in GoodReader made it back to Preview.



EASY KEYNOTE
The most efficient workflow for editing PowerPoint presentations is to edit them in Keynote, and then save to iDisk in PowerPoint format.

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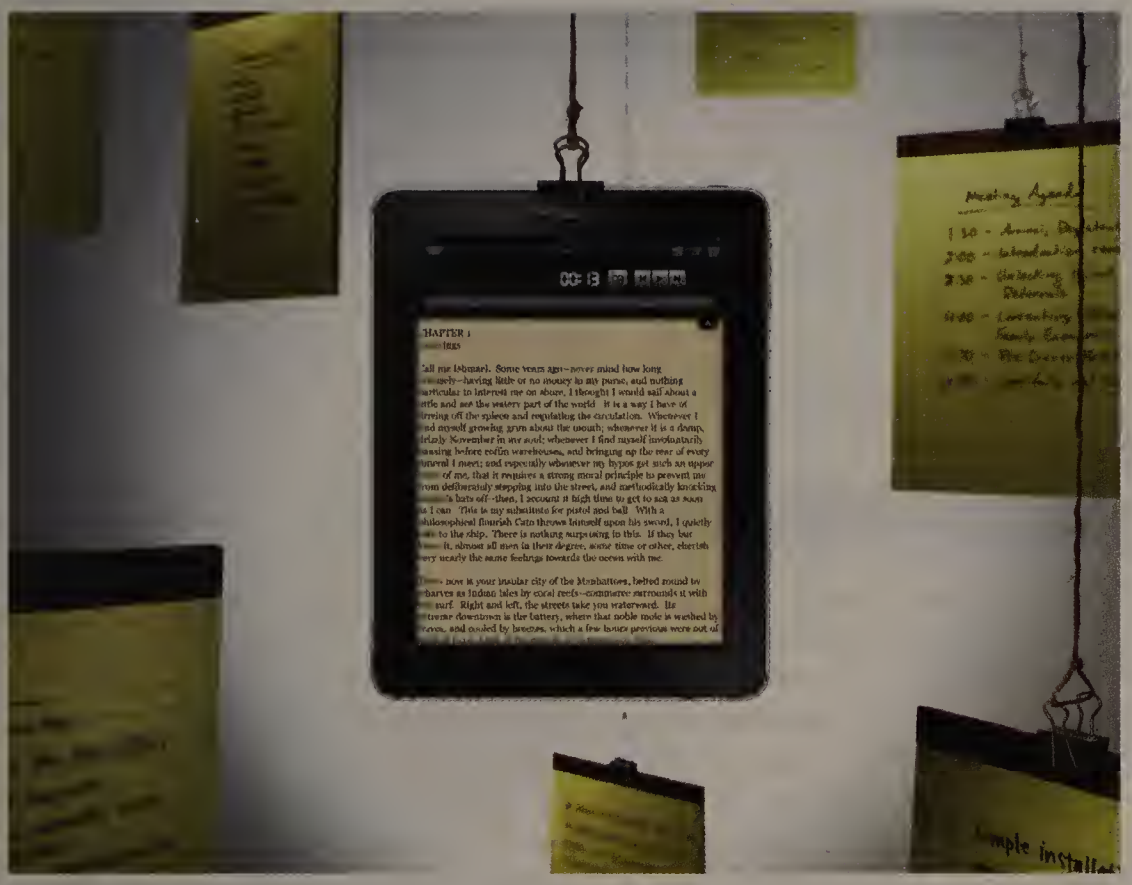
So only two apps—GoodReader and iAnnotate—were able to support most annotations in both directions. The two differ in their ability to get PDFs on and off your iPad. GoodReader can accept documents from a dizzying array of sources, including iTunes, Dropbox, MobileMe iDisk, and Google Docs; it will also open documents sent from other iOS apps. If you use iTunes, then you can effectively edit the document in place—no importing or exporting is required (although GoodReader does ask whether you want to annotate the original or a copy). Using other import-export methods, such as the cloud or e-mail, is a multistep process: You import the document into GoodReader, edit it, and then copy or move it to the destination.

iAnnotate accepts files via iTunes syncing or other iOS apps but doesn't connect directly to cloud storage. To retrieve a file from iTunes, you must export the edited version (which takes three taps); you can also e-mail the file. When exporting a file, you can choose to save it as an annotated PDF (the annotations can then be edited in another program), as a "flattened" PDF (with all the annotations converted to plain text or graphics), or as the original, unannotated version.

Both apps have their strong points, but I favor GoodReader for its fidelity when displaying annotations and its flexibility in getting documents in and out. My preferred workflow is to drag a PDF to my Dropbox or iDisk; then, in GoodReader, I tap Connect To Servers ▸ *servername* and tap the document name; then I tap the document again in the My Documents list and add my annotations. To make an annotation, I tap and hold a place in the file, and then tap Note, Highlight, Markup, or Draw from the pop-over menu that appears; additional controls appear as needed. When I'm done, I again tap Connect To Servers ▸ *servername*, and then I tap Upload, select the document, and tap Upload 1 Item.

Senior Contributor **Joe Kissell** is the senior editor of TidBits and the author of the e-book *Take Control of Working with Your iPad* (TidBits Publishing, 2010).



TAKE A NOTE

The best note-taking apps for the iPad

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

Let's say you've got a bunch of meetings around town on today's calendar. You'll need to take notes, but because you'll be running around all day, you'd rather not lug a laptop along. Could an iPad do the job? How good a note-taking device is it?

The answer in brief: With the right apps (and an external keyboard), you can definitely make it work. But that raises another question: Assuming you want an iPad app for taking and editing notes (not a full-fledged word processor like Pages), which app is best for you? The answer depends on the kinds of notes you want to take.

GENERALISTS

There are dozens of iPad text editors that let you write, store, and share plain-text files—notes that don't demand fancy formatting, just the words.

One of my favorites is Second Gear's $5 Elements (●●●½; macworld.com/6528). Offering a minimal interface, Elements lets you read, edit, and store files using Dropbox. (Currently, it requires that you use its own folder inside your Dropbox folder.) So you can access notes from your Mac (or any other computer) as well as from your iPad. Elements offers basic formatting tools—you can change fonts, font size, text color, and text background, but that's about it. In addition to storing notes on Dropbox, Elements also lets you e-mail them.

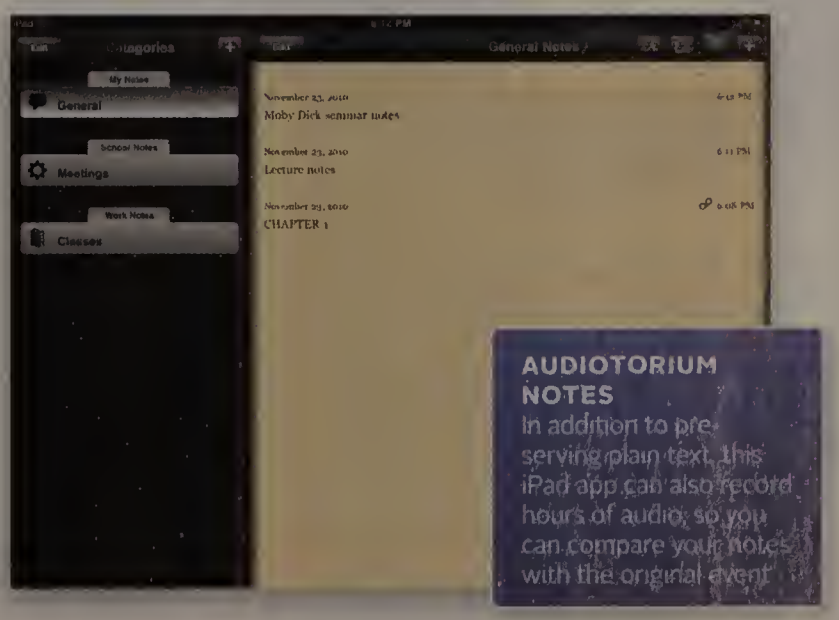
There are other Dropbox-compatible text editors, such as Nebulous Notes ($1; macworld.com/6833) and Droptext ($1; macworld.com/6834); both offer access to files anywhere in your Dropbox folder and have features similar to Elements'. I prefer the Elements interface, but either of these other apps would work fine for occasional note-taking.

Codality's Simplenote (●●●●½; free with ads or $12 a year for Simplenote Premium; macworld.com/6835) is also designed for taking and sharing simple text notes. But instead of storing them in Dropbox, the program uses its own Website; you can still sync notes and access them from multiple devices. Simplenote also supports tags and enhanced search, making it easy to find notes. For editing the notes on your Mac, you need a program that's compatible with the Simplenote site, such as Literature and Latte's Scrivener 2.0 (macworld.com/6836) or the open-source Notational Velocity (macworld.com/6856).

SPECIALISTS

A number of other note-taking apps work with more than just plain text; they also let you collect images, PDFs, and even audio.

For example, the Evernote iPad app (free limited account or $45 a year for a premium account; macworld.com/6837) syncs notes to the Evernote Website, an iPhone version (●●●●; macworld.com/5323), and a desktop version (●●●●; macworld.com/5214). You can use it to jot down text, record voice notes, and collect photos, PDFs, and Web pages.



ELEMENTS
This iPad text editor lets you adjust only the most basic formatting: the font and the size, color, and background of text.

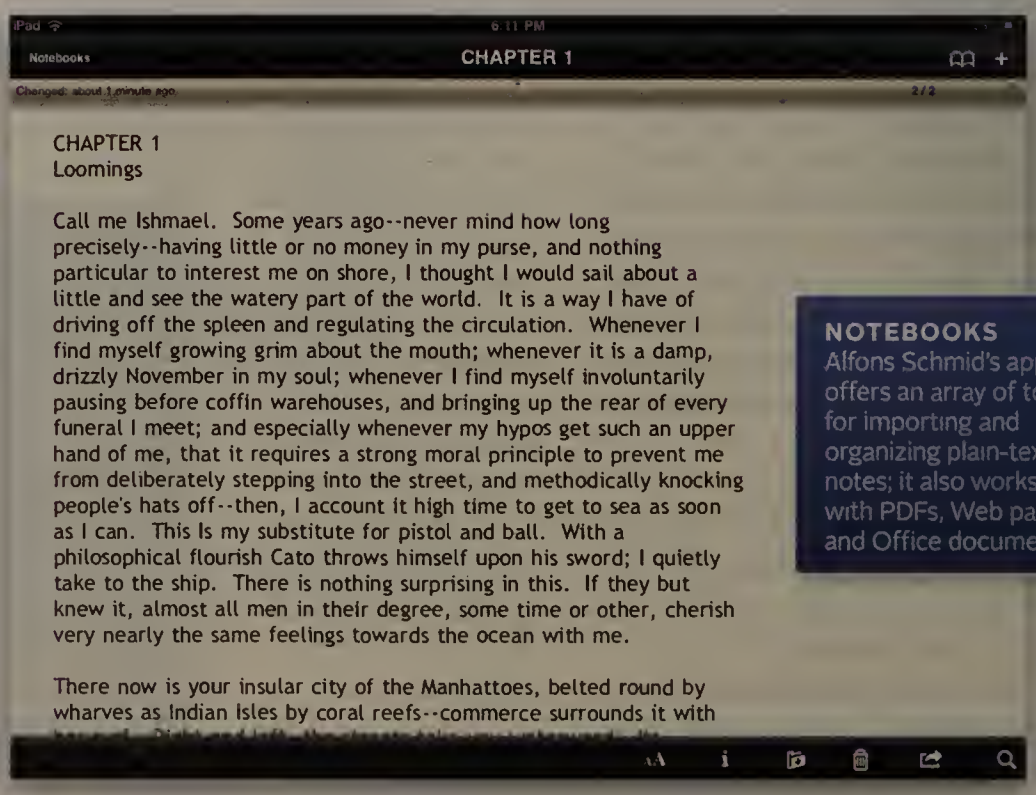
Evernote's powerful search features can even search text *within* images.

Rage Digital's $3 HelvetiNote (●●●; macworld.com/6838) is good for those who think visually as well as in words. You can use your finger (or a stylus such as Ten One Design's $15 Pogo Sketch [tenonedesign.com] or Griffin's $20 Stylus for iPad [macworld.com/6839]) to make and store simple drawings.

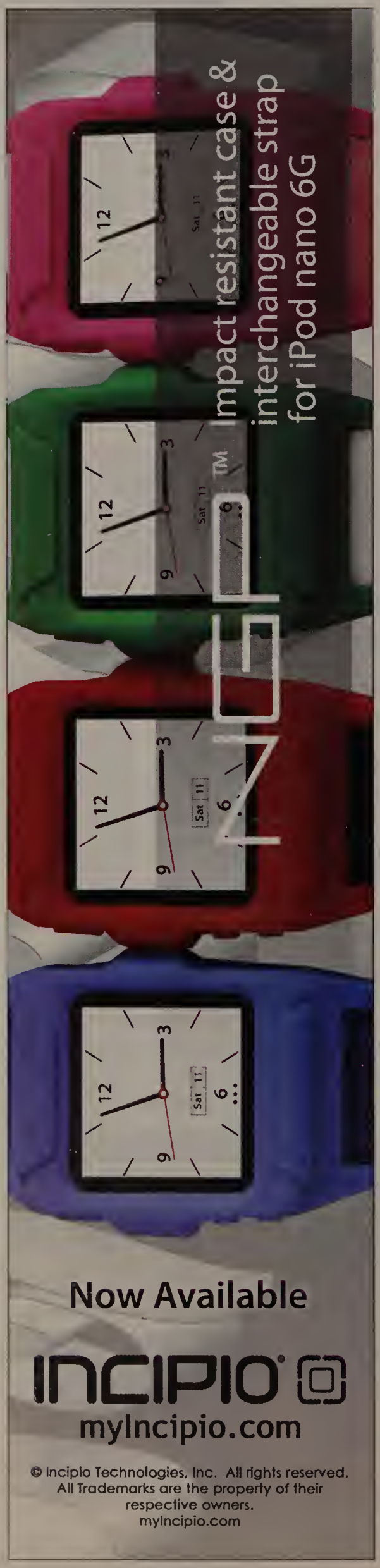
Alfons Schmid's $9 Notebooks for iPad (macworld.com/6840) goes far beyond many other apps, offering an astounding number of options for organizing and linking collections of documents, as well as importing and exporting both documents and text. It can be a great tool for collecting snippets or taking complex notes, and for working with a lot of different types of texts (for example, PDFs, Web pages, and Office documents). It can also sync with Scrivener. (Note: As we went to press, Circus Ponies [www.circusponies.com] released an iPad version of its NoteBook application; the iPad app's multimedia skills seem similar to those of Alfons Schmid's Notebooks for iPad.)

Lastly, the chic $5 Audiotorium Notes (macworld.com/6857) lets you record voice and text notes via its tabbed interface. A note can contain text and/or audio, and you can record hours of audio within a single note. This is a great way to record a meeting and take notes at the same time; you can listen to the audio later and revise or augment your notes. It also syncs via Dropbox, and has its own built-in server so you can download documents from your iPad to any computer.

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs on his blog, Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com). His latest book is *Take Control of iTunes 10: The FAQ* (TidBits Publishing, 2010; www.takecontrolbooks.com).



NOTEBOOKS
Alfons Schmid's app offers an array of tools for importing and organizing plain-text notes; it also works with PDFs, Web pages, and Office documents.



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The SYNCING SYSTEM

How to keep personal data synchronized between Macs and iOS devices

BY JOE KISSELL

As soon as your collection of Apple devices running Mac OS X or iOS expands to two or more, the issue of syncing is bound to come up. You'll want most or all of the important personal data on your first device—e-mail, calendars, contacts, and more—to be identical on your second device, and you'll want to be able to update the data in either place and have the changes reflected in the other.

That basic scenario isn't difficult to achieve, but it gets more complicated as the number of variables increases. So, to keep the process as straightforward as possible, here are some ground rules for this article:

> I'll assume your Mac(s) run OS X 10.6 and mobile device(s) run iOS 4.

> I talk only about syncing Apple's applications—Mail, Address Book, iCal, Safari, and so on—not third-party applications.

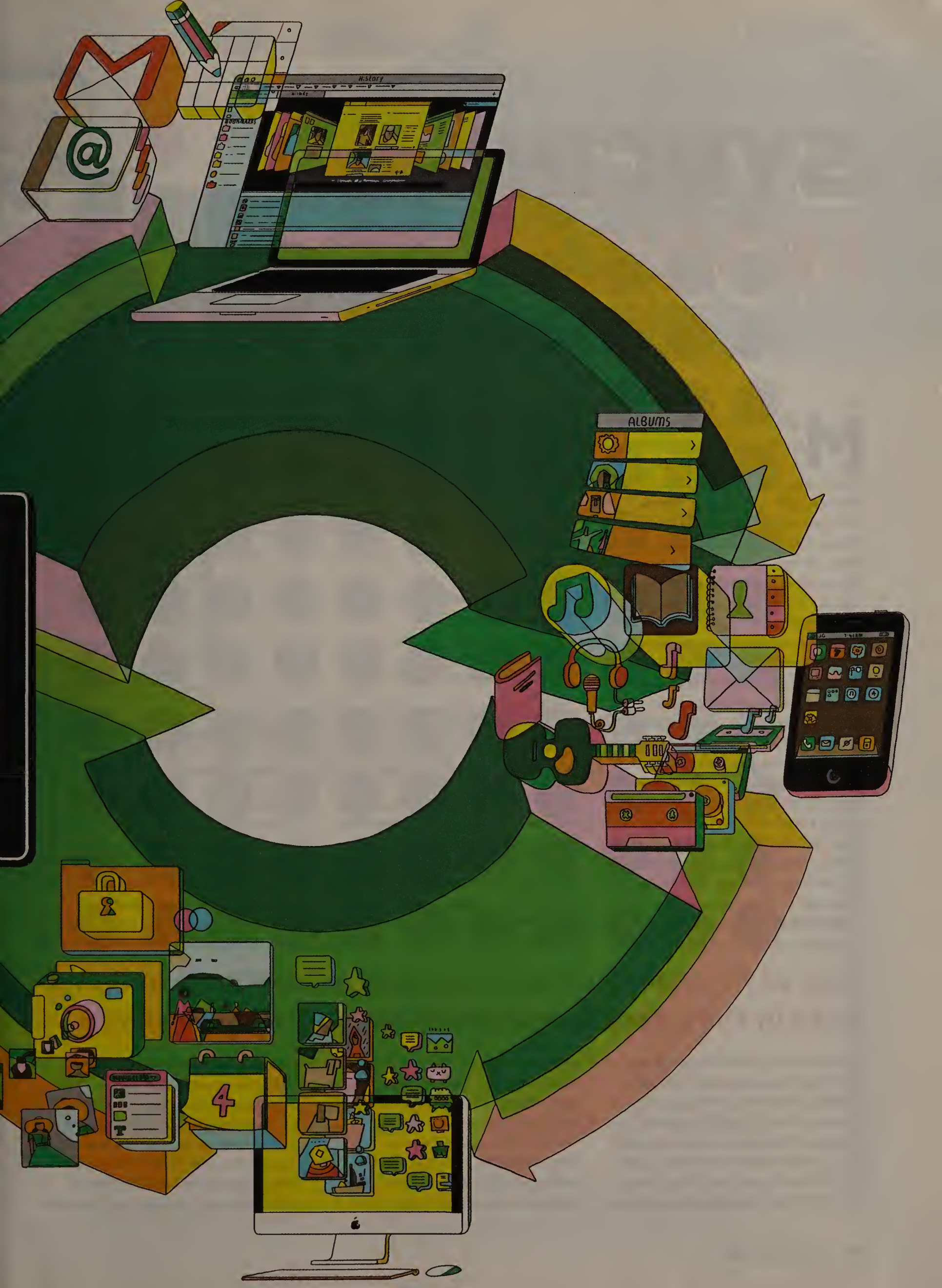
> This guide covers e-mail, contacts, calendars, and browser bookmarks, but not other data types you may want to sync.

> I discuss syncing data only for a single user between multiple devices.

> The focus here is primarily on using Apple's MobileMe ($3\frac{1}{2}$; individuals, $99 a year; five-user Family Pack, $149 per year; macworld.com/6778) or a variety of free services from Google (www.google.com)—Gmail, Gmail Contacts, and Google Calendar.

I'll also offer one general piece of advice at the outset: Instead of turning on all types of syncing on all your devices at once, concentrate on getting just one type of data syncing between two devices, gradually add the rest of your devices, and then repeat the procedure for each data type.

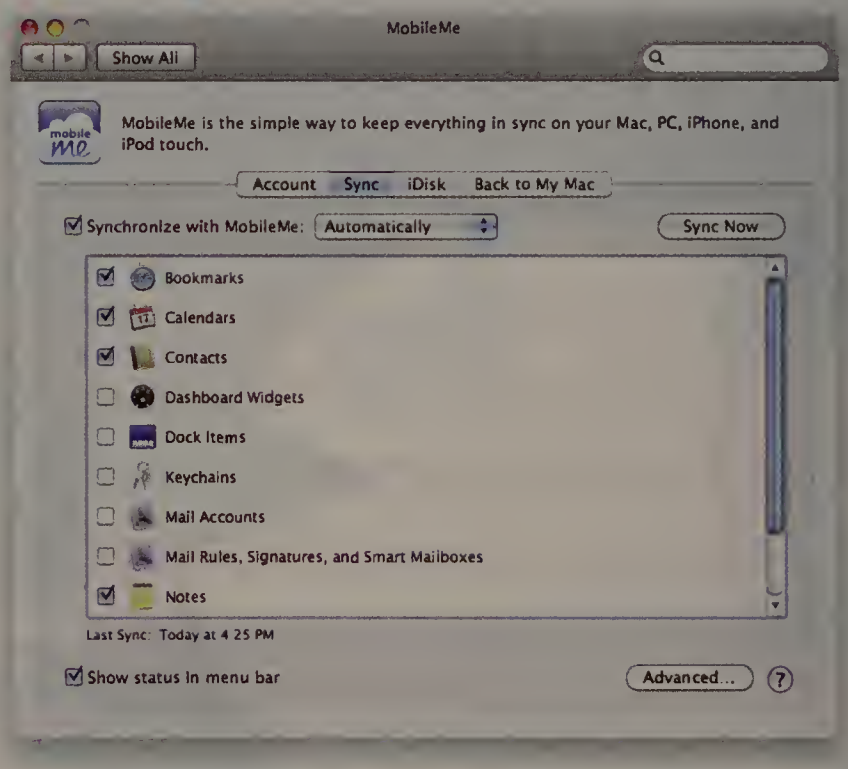
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CELYN


History
BOOKMARKS
ALBUMS
4

SYNCING WITH MOBILEME

MobileMe is best known for its highly visible services such as e-mail and iDisk, but one of its most impressive talents is keeping many kinds of data in sync among multiple Macs and iOS devices. Because Apple's servers function as both mediator and online storage for all your synchronized data, you can also access your information in a Web browser at www.me.com.

Before you start experimenting with changes in your syncing setup, I recommend that you back up your calendar and contact data, which are especially vulnerable to accidental change or deletion. If you already use Time Machine or another backup utility, you're all set. Otherwise, to back up the contents of OS X's Address Book, you'll open Address Book (in /Applications), and choose File ▶ Export ▶ Address Book Archive. To back up your iCal calendars, open iCal (in /Applications), choose File ▶ Export ▶ iCal Archive. If you're using an iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, sync it before proceeding.



MobileMe Preference Pane On the Sync tab of the MobileMe system preference, you can turn on syncing for various types of data and adjust synchronization options.

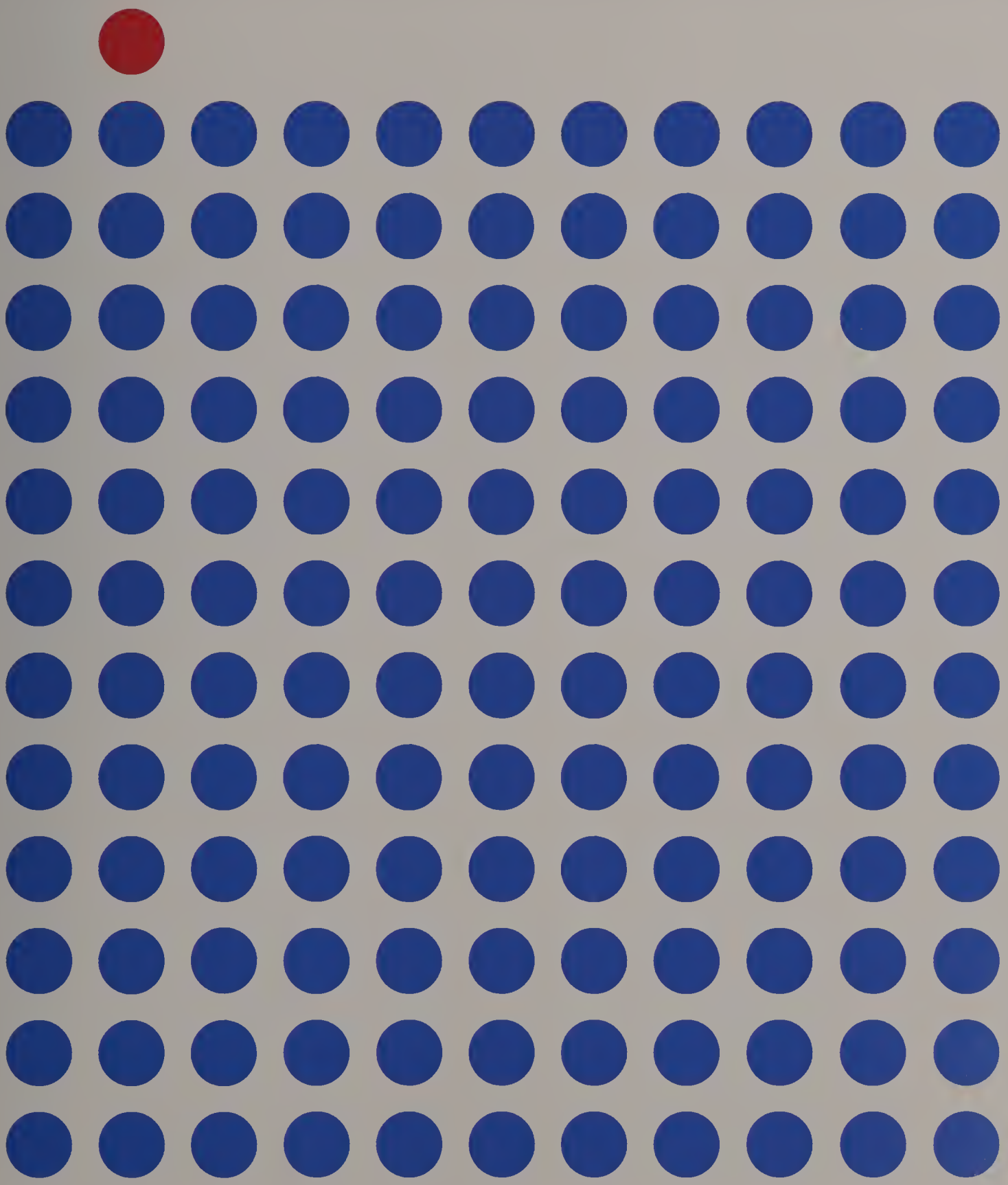
Basic Setup On a Mac, open the MobileMe system preference and sign in if necessary. Next, click the Sync tab and select the Synchronize With MobileMe checkbox. The pop-up menu provides several options for synchronization frequency. The default choice, Automatically, is what Apple recommends (as do I). For most data types, this setting means that when data changes on your Mac, it's pushed to Apple's servers immediately, and when changes are made elsewhere, they're retrieved from Apple's servers quickly—usually within seconds.

You'll also need to select the checkbox for each type of data you want to sync. Remember that it never hurts to activate and test these one at a time. Finally, make sure Show Status In Menu Bar is selected; doing so displays the Sync menu (two arrows forming a circle) in your menu bar, which will come in handy later on.

On an iOS 4 device, if you don't already have a MobileMe account set up, tap Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars ▶ Add Account ▶ MobileMe, enter your credentials, and tap Next. After iOS verifies your information, it displays a series of services you can turn on or off, but you can leave everything set at their defaults for now, and simply tap Done.

E-mail MobileMe addresses the problem of syncing e-mail in two different ways. First, your MobileMe e-mail account uses IMAP, so the mail server always contains a master copy of all your messages and mailboxes—including sent and filed e-mail (not to mention status flags). So you can set up multiple clients that use the same credentials, and after they've had time to sync, they'll show exactly the same mailboxes and messages.

One of MobileMe's most impressive talents is keeping data in sync among multiple Macs and iOS devices.



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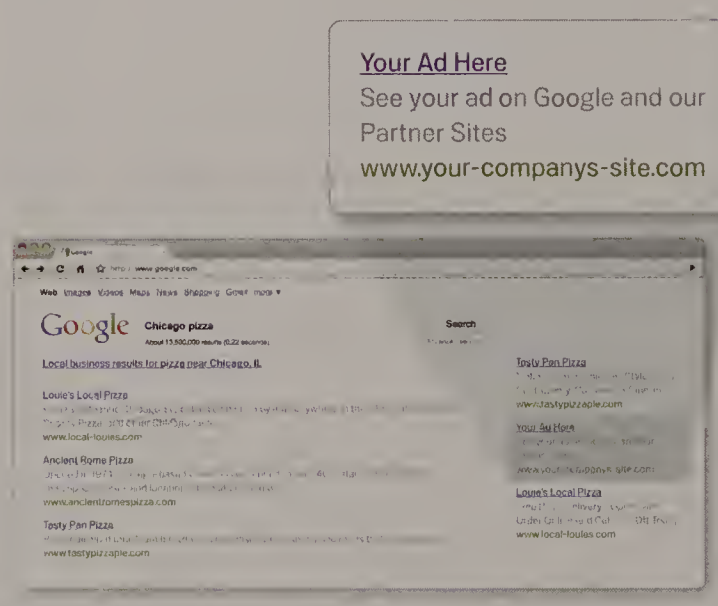

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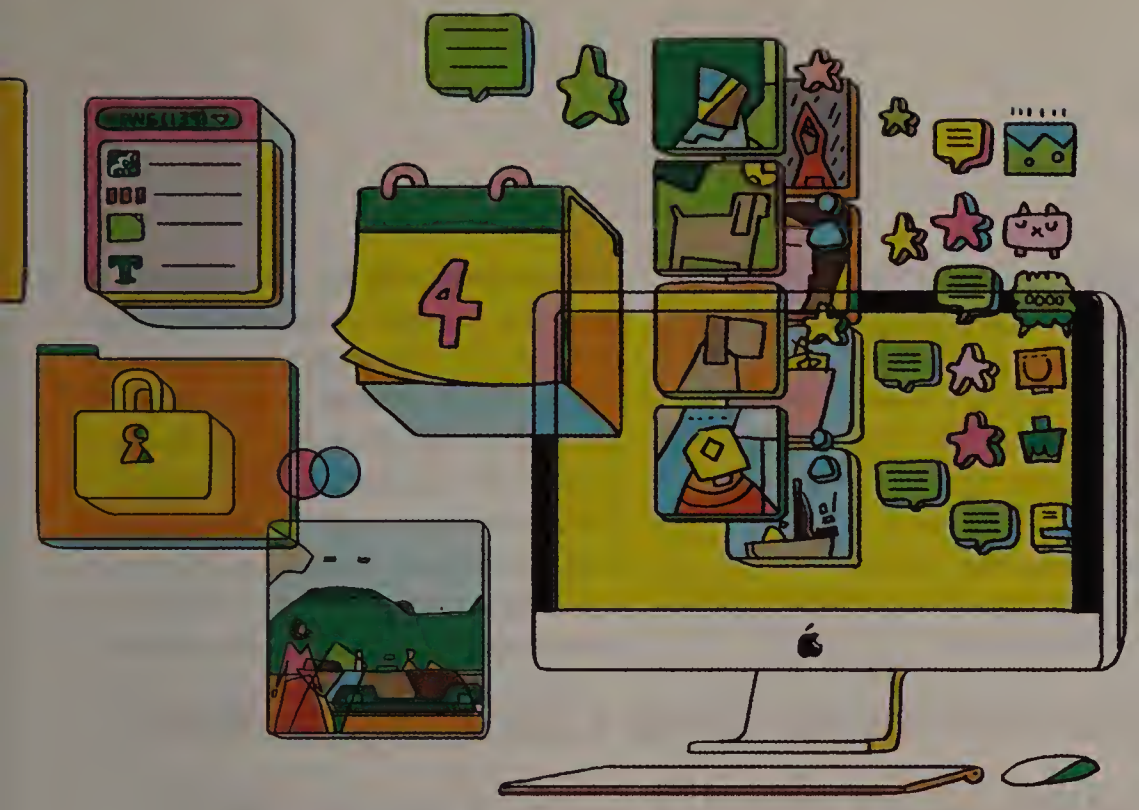


Second, MobileMe lets you sync the settings for all your accounts (not just MobileMe) between devices, although it doesn't sync the messages themselves. If each of your accounts is of the IMAP or Microsoft Exchange variety, syncing is simple because MobileMe handles syncing account settings, while Mail syncs the messages themselves with the servers.

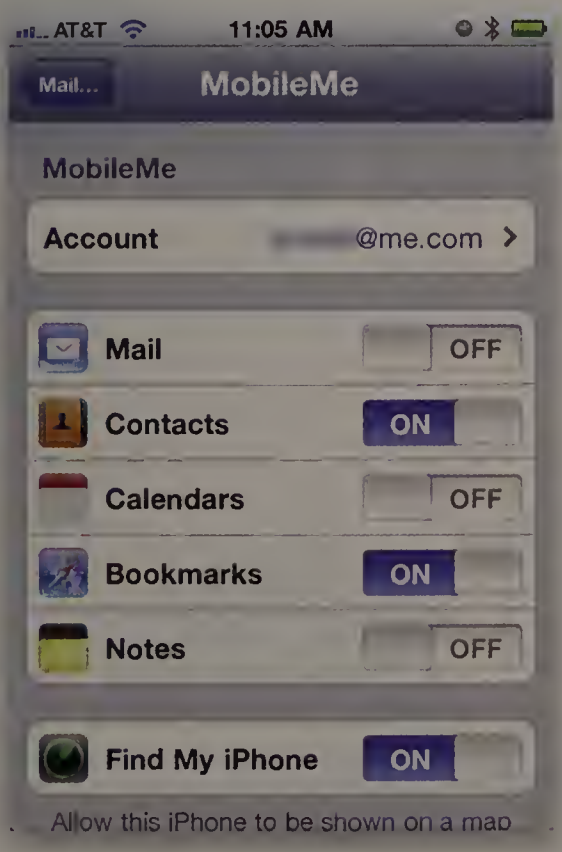
On the Sync tab of the MobileMe system preference are two checkboxes having to do with Mail. When you select Mail Accounts on two or more Macs, OS X synchronizes the basic settings (such as server addresses and e-mail addresses) for all your e-mail accounts between them. This setting does *not* sync your passwords, though; if you store your Mail passwords in your Keychain, you can select Keychains, separately, to sync those too. The result is that for IMAP and Exchange accounts, both Macs will download and display identical copies of the messages from the respective servers. (Messages stored locally in On My Mac mailboxes don't sync via MobileMe.)

When you select Mail Rules, Signatures, And Smart Mailboxes, those portions of Mail's preferences sync between the Macs. This is usually helpful, but if two Macs have different sets of active accounts or local mailboxes, some of your items may not work correctly.

Although MobileMe syncs Mail settings between Macs, it doesn't sync Mail settings to your iOS devices; instead, iTunes does that job. Connect your iOS device, select it in the Devices section of iTunes' Source list, and then click the Info tab. Select Sync Mail Accounts, along with each e-mail account on your Mac for which you'd like to transfer settings to your iOS device. Then click Sync.

Once you've done this, go to Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars on your iOS device, tap your MobileMe account, and make sure that the Mail switch is set to On. Repeat this procedure for each server-based account you want to sync.

In addition, make sure Fetch New Data is set to Push if you want data such as e-mail, calendars, and contacts to update immediately on your iPhone when they change on another device. (However, the Push setting decreases battery life more rapidly.)



MobileMe on iOS When you configure a MobileMe account on your iOS device, you can selectively turn on or off syncing for several types of data.

Note that on iOS devices, Mail doesn't automatically download all the messages in all your mailboxes; it downloads the contents of your Inboxes (up to the limit specified in Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars ▶ Show), and then it downloads the limited contents of any individual mailbox when you select it.

Contacts To sync your contacts via MobileMe, make sure the Contacts checkbox is selected in the Sync tab of the MobileMe system preference. OS X then syncs all the local (On My Mac) contacts between your Mac(s) and Apple's servers. Contacts on LDAP servers, or in CardDAV or Exchange 2007 accounts, don't sync via MobileMe; you must set up these accounts separately on each device.

To enable over-the-air contact syncing on an iOS device, tap Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars, and then tap your MobileMe account and make sure Contacts is set to On. To sync with Exchange accounts as well, tap their names and likewise ensure that Contacts is turned on.

Calendars MobileMe can sync the calendars you created on your Mac(s) in

OTHER SYNC OPTIONS

Although the methods I've outlined are effective for most people, they aren't the only means of keeping your data in sync between devices. A great many other syncing products and services exist.

For calendars, for example, you can use BusyMac's iCal replacement, BusyCal, or BusySync for syncing iCal data; or try Spanning Sync, which syncs multiple Macs with Google Calendar.

For Macs, Mark/Space's SyncTogether can sync Address Book contacts, iCal events and tasks, and Safari bookmarks, plus preference files and Mail settings.

For more details on these and others types of sync options, visit macworld.com/6811.

iCal with Apple's servers, to other Macs, and to your iOS devices. Apple recently revised MobileMe to use the industry-standard CalDAV protocol for syncing calendar data, but you'll have to activate it first. Sign in to the MobileMe Website, go to the Calendar application, click Upgrade Now, and follow the directions.

On each Mac, make sure that Calendars is selected on the Sync tab of the MobileMe system preference. Note that MobileMe syncs only local (On My Mac) calendars and read-only calendars to which you've subscribed. (Subscribed calendars appear only on other Macs and iOS devices, not on the MobileMe Website.) If you've set up any server-based calendar accounts, such as CalDAV or Exchange 2007, these won't sync via MobileMe; you'll have to configure such accounts individually on each device.

To sync calendars on an iOS 4 device, go to Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars ▶ *yourMobileMeaccount* and make sure Calendars is turned on. You may see a prompt asking how to treat existing calendar data. If so, Merge With MobileMe is the correct choice.

Bookmarks If you select the Bookmarks checkbox on the Sync tab of the MobileMe system preference on each of your Macs, OS X syncs Safari's bookmarks between them; no further configuration is needed. On an iOS device, tap Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars ▶ *yourMobileMeaccount* and make sure the Bookmarks switch is set to On.

Troubleshooting Because syncing is inherently complex, unexpected behavior can occur. Here are some quick tips:

> In OS X, MobileMe can notify you if a pending sync would change more than a small amount of data. Open the MobileMe system preference, click the Sync tab, and click Advanced. At the bottom of the sheet that appears, select Show Alert When *X* Of The Data On This Computer Will Be Changed, and choose an amount from the pop-up menu. (I suggest the More Than 25% option.)

> In certain situations—such as when one of your devices is offline for a while—you could end up changing a particular item on two different devices in between syncs. When this happens, OS X doesn't know what to do and presents a

Google's services offer features that closely parallel what MobileMe has—and they won't cost you a cent.

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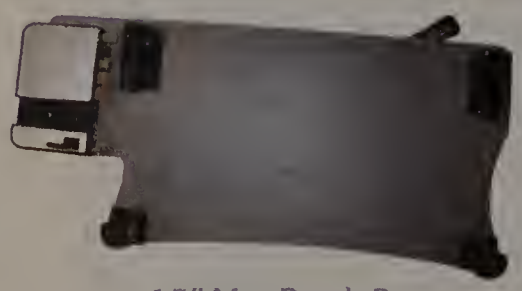

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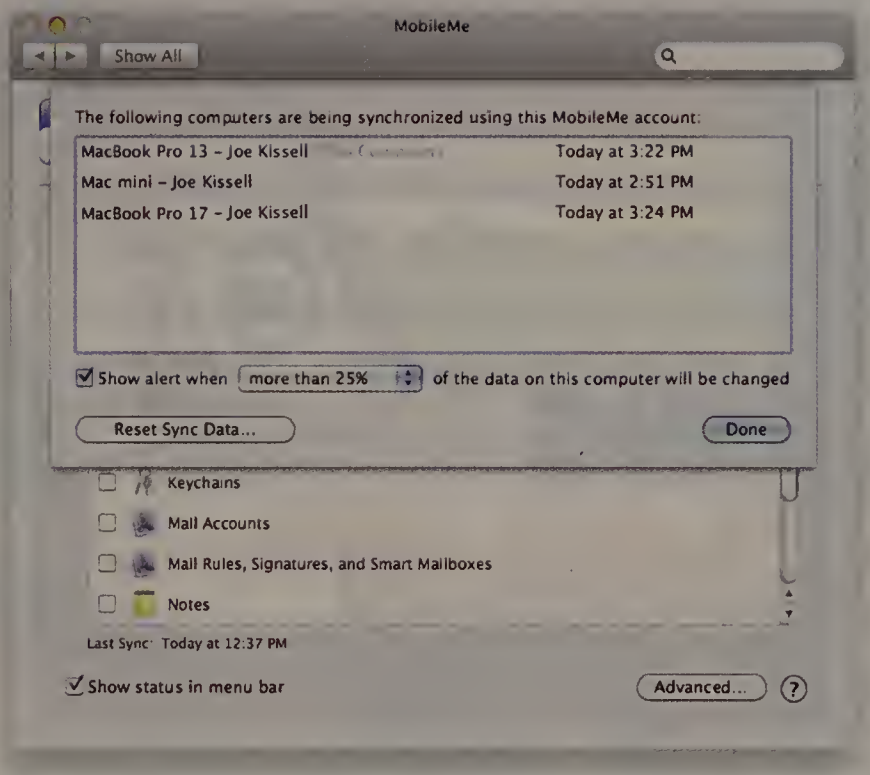
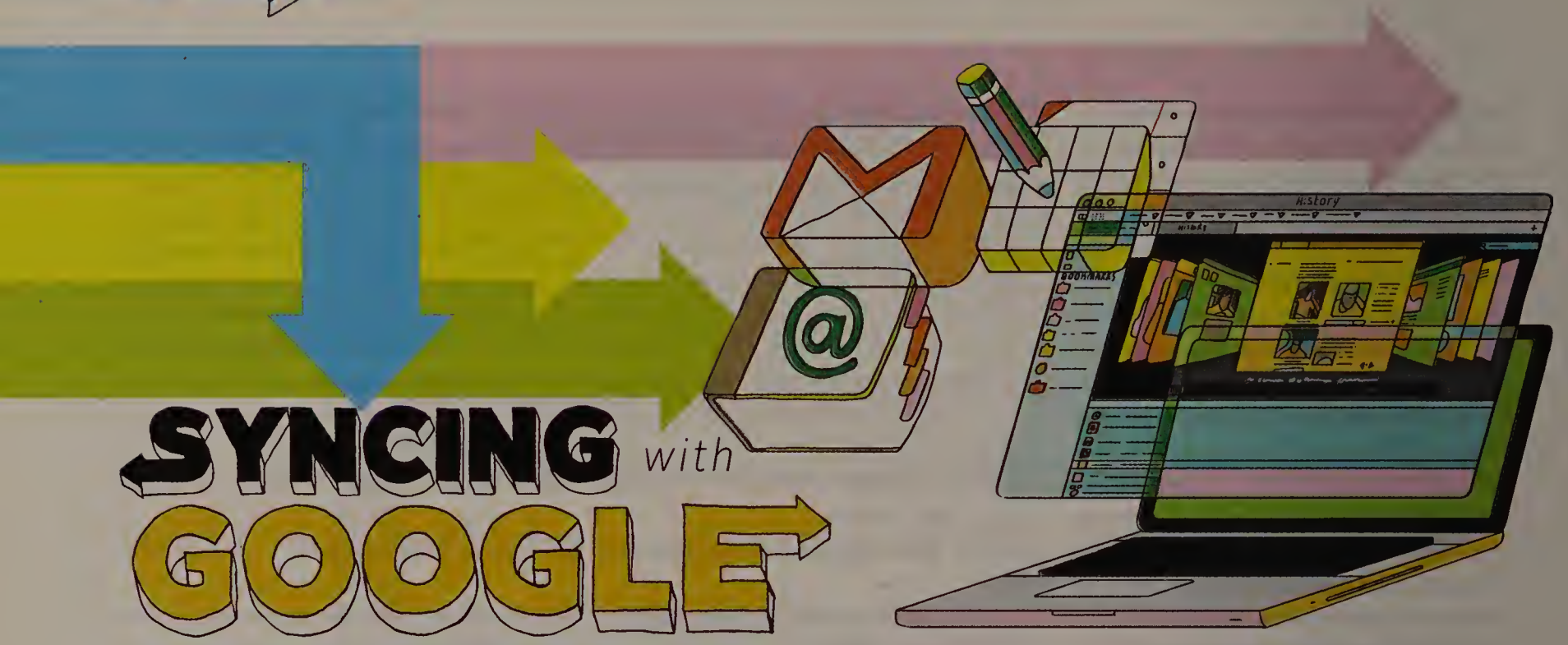
Conflict Resolver dialog box. Click Review Now to see which items are in conflict, click the one you want to use, and then (if there's more than one) click Continue and repeat the process as needed.

> If you know or suspect that your data has gotten badly out of sync, you can reset it—that is, replace the synced data on your Mac with the copy that's on the MobileMe servers or vice-versa. To do this, open the MobileMe system preference, click the Sync tab, and click Advanced. At the bottom of the dialog box that appears, click Reset Sync Data. Choose the type of data to replace (or choose All Sync Info, to replace everything) from the pop-up menu at the top, and then choose the direction in which the replacement should occur by clicking one of the arrows.

> The Sync menu that you enabled earlier lets you force a sync to occur immediately (Sync Now) or stop a sync in progress (Cancel Sync). Starting in Snow Leopard, this menu also has some hidden features. Hold down the Option key while clicking the menu, and you'll see additional commands. Choose Open Sync Diagnostics to collect data about a problematic sync and send it to Apple for analysis; or, for problems not solved by resetting sync data, choose Reset Sync Services. This command leaves your data intact but erases your sync history, which can solve certain tricky syncing problems.



MobileMe's Advanced Settings In the Advanced sheet, you can configure the data-change alert and reset sync data, among other activities.

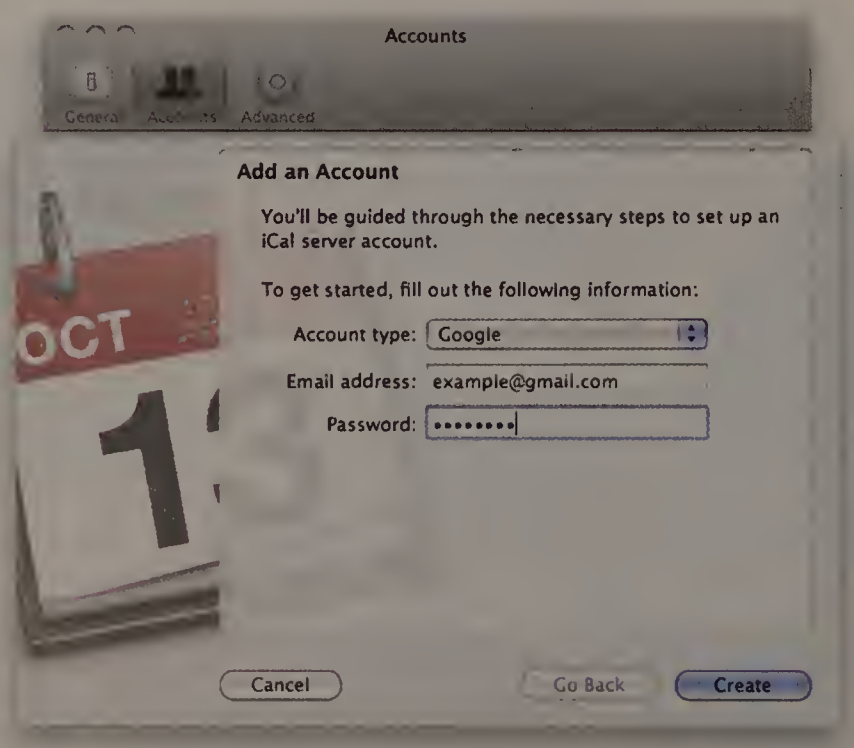


SYNCING with GOOGLE

For e-mail, contacts, and calendars, Google's services offer features that closely parallel what MobileMe has—and they won't cost you a cent. You can sync your data between multiple computers and Google's cloud of servers; you can access your data in any Web browser; and you can choose over-the-air push synchronization for mobile devices. For other types of data (to-do items, notes, and bookmarks), the syncing story is much different, but with some effort, you can achieve much of what MobileMe offers, at a fraction of the price.

Be aware, though, that because of differences between the way Google stores data and the ways Apple's Address Book and iCal do, some items (including Address Book groups and the "floating" time zone in iCal) don't sync at all, and others are subject to occasional mutilation as they try to fit into Google's categories, and vice-versa.

Basic Setup Before you begin, if you haven't already done so, back up all the contact and calendar data on your Mac, as discussed earlier. If you're using Google Apps (for a custom domain name), also make sure you've enabled Google Sync for your domain by following Google's instructions (macworld.com/6846). And, if you use an iOS device, be sure to use its existing settings to sync it with your Mac.



iCal and Google Calendar To sync iCal with Google Calendar, enter your Gmail credentials and then follow the prompts.

E-mail If you're content to use a browser for e-mail, then syncing is a nonissue. However, if you prefer to use a conventional e-mail client such as Mail in OS X or iOS, you can set it up to access your Gmail account. Gmail lets you connect by using POP, IMAP, or Exchange ActiveSync, but only the latter two automatically keep all your e-mail in sync across devices. (And, although you can use either protocol under iOS, Google doesn't currently support connecting from OS X via Exchange ActiveSync. But it's no problem to use Exchange ActiveSync in iOS, and IMAP in OS X, to connect to the same account.)

Before you can access your Gmail account from Mail, you must turn on IMAP support. To do this, go to www.gmail.com (or, if you use Google Apps for a custom Gmail domain name, go to the URL you normally use) and log in. Click on the Settings link, click Forwarding And POP/IMAP, and then, in the IMAP Access section, select the Enable IMAP checkbox. Click on Save Changes.

Next, in OS X's Mail, choose Mail ▶ Preferences, click Accounts, and click the plus-sign (+) button. Enter your full name, your Gmail address (for Google Apps users, include the @ sign and the domain name), and your password, and then click Create. Mail automatically configures the account to use IMAP.

On an iOS 4 device, the easiest way to configure Gmail to use IMAP is to tap Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars ▶ Add Account ▶ Gmail, enter your credentials, tap Next, and then (after your credentials are verified) tap Done.

However, you can also use Exchange ActiveSync to access your Gmail account on your iOS device. This gives you the

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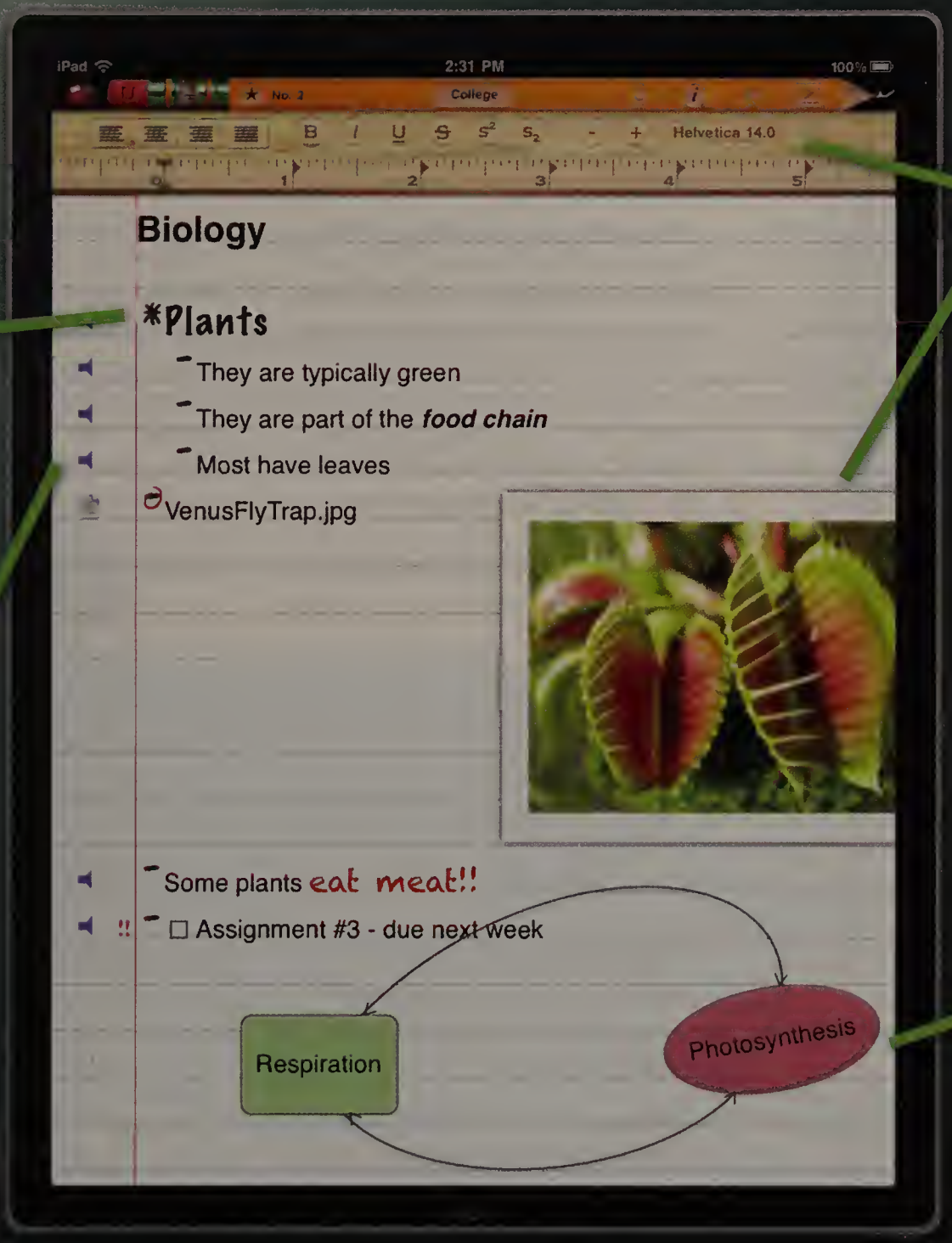

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option of push e-mail and automatically syncs your Google calendars and contacts without any further hassles. The instructions for setting up your iOS device to access Gmail using Exchange ActiveSync are somewhat lengthy, but Google spells out all the details on its Website (macworld.com/6847).

Contacts in OS X To sync Address Book with Gmail Contacts' My Contacts list, open Address Book, choose Address Book ▶ Preferences, click Accounts, select On My Mac in the Accounts list on the left, and then click the Account Information tab. Select the Synchronize With Google checkbox, and then click Configure. If you're setting up Google syncing for the first time, an alert appears explaining about the synchronization process; read this and click Agree. Then, in the dialog box that appears, enter your Gmail address in the Google Account field and your password in the Password field, and click OK. You may see a warning that Address Book can't verify the identity of the server; if so, click Continue.

Next, make sure the Sync menu appears in your Mac's menu bar, as discussed earlier. Choose Sync Now from the Sync menu. During the initial sync, if the Conflict Resolver window appears, click Review Now, decide which version of each contact to use, and then click Sync Now. After the first sync, OS X should sync changes once per hour, although you can use the Sync Now command at any time to sync manually.

Calendars in OS X To sync iCal with Google Calendar, open iCal, choose iCal ▶ Preferences, click on Accounts, and click the plus-sign (+) button. Choose Google from the Account Type pop-up menu, and enter your full e-mail address (whether ending in @gmail.com or your custom domain) in the Email Address field and your password in the Password field, and click on Create. You may see a warning that iCal can't verify the identity of the server; if so, click Continue. Your primary Google calendar then appears in iCal. To

CHOOSING BETWEEN MOBILEME AND GOOGLE

MobileMe and Google offer similar capabilities, but which is best for you?

Price

MobileMe subscriptions start at $99 per year (although you can often find better prices online), whereas Google's services are free. However, note that Google's services are free only to a point; if you want more storage space or other extra features from Google, you'll need to pay $50 per year per user for Google Apps for Business (macworld.com/6810). In addition, third-party software to help simplify your interactions with Google may cost you.

Support

Google offers no direct or personalized support for its free products, forcing users to rely on Google's Help Center and public help forums to solve problems. Apple, on the other hand, offers not only online support for MobileMe (including chat with a support representative at any time of the day or night), but also the option to speak to an expert on the phone for free.

Ease of Use

Apple has made it relatively simple to sync your data with all your OS X and iOS devices, whereas Google's services require much more manual effort.

Features

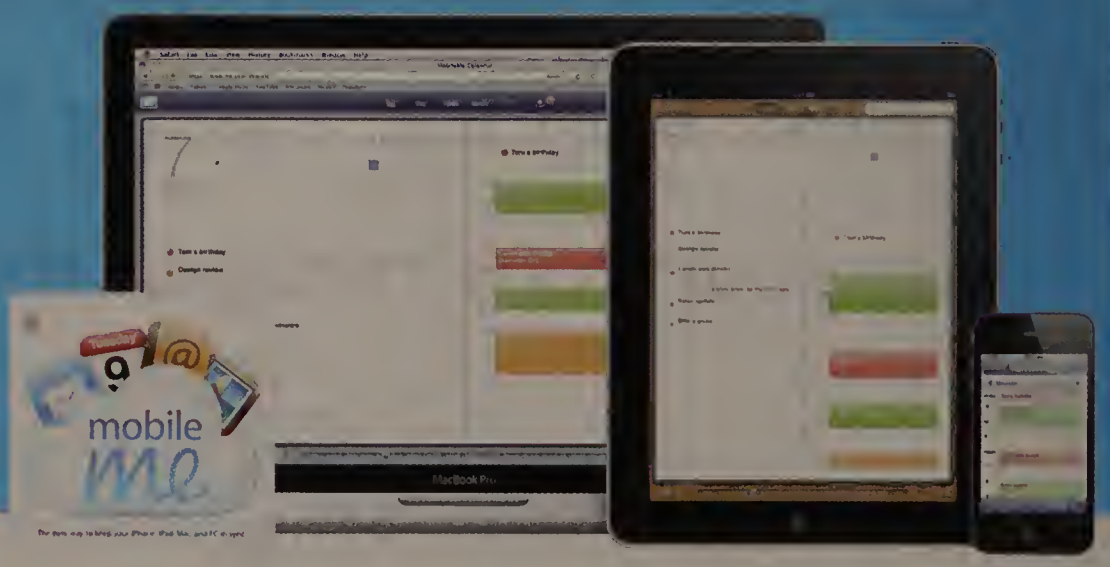
MobileMe adds several unique features, including Find My iPhone (or iPad or iPod touch); Back to My Mac; Gallery, and online storage (iDisk) that you can use for hosting Websites and sharing media (whereas Google's support for online file storage is less convenient to access). Meanwhile, Google offers Google Docs, Google Sites, and more-extensive options for filtering e-mail on the server.

Compatibility

MobileMe, as an Apple product, is designed for optimal compatibility with other Apple products. Some Google services rely on different standards, and as a result may yield unexpected results with Apple software. On the other hand, if you use non-Apple products, you may find Google's services to be more broadly compatible with them.

Privacy

Some people have expressed concerns about Google's privacy policies, and have balked at the idea that the contents of their personal e-mail messages may be indexed in order to display relevant ads on the Gmail Website. Although I think most of these concerns are overblown, consider each company's privacy policies carefully before committing your personal data to one service or the other.



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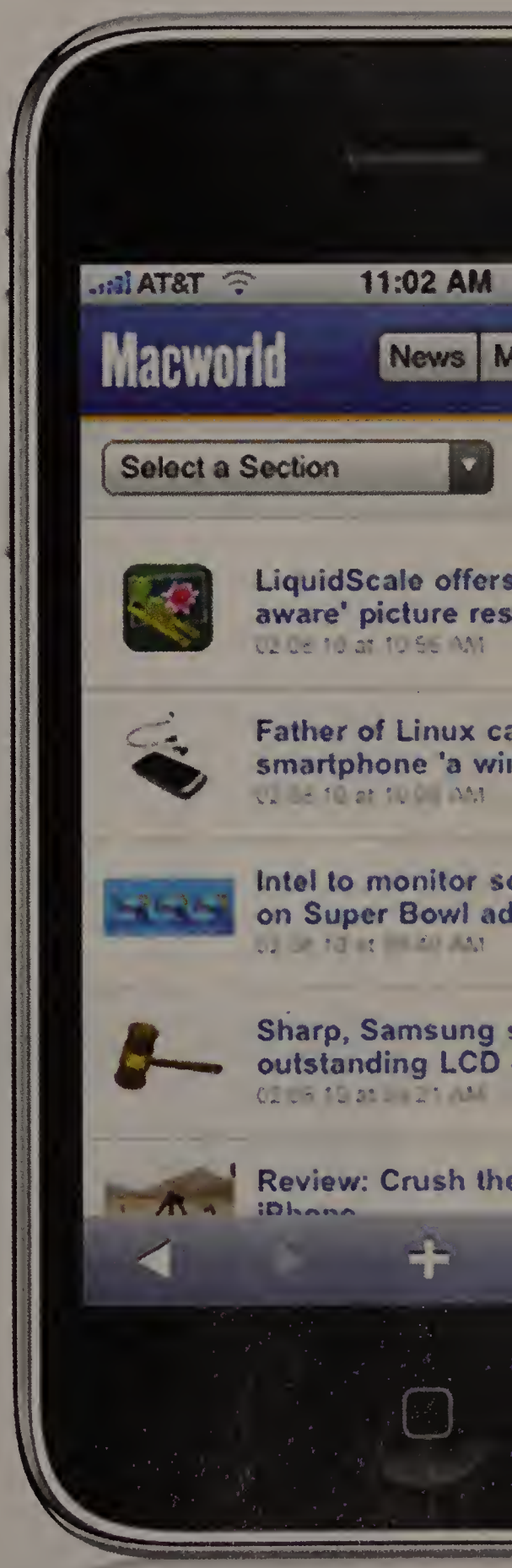
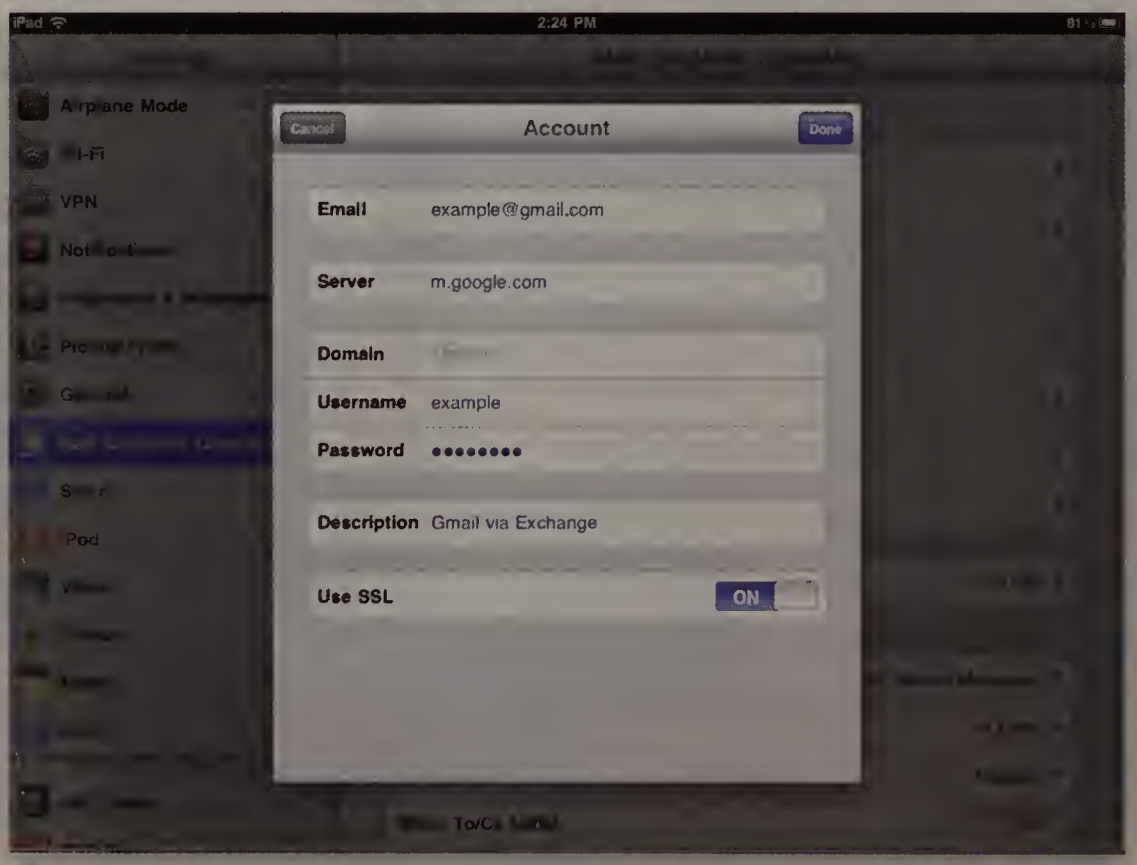


sync additional Google calendars, click the Delegation tab in the Preferences window and select the Show checkbox for one or more calendars.

This procedure syncs existing Google calendars with iCal, but not the other way around. To move your existing iCal data into Google Calendar, find one of your calendars in Google on the left side of the screen, click the Settings button beneath it, click Import Calendar next to the Create New Calendar button, and then, in the dialog box that appears, click Browse. Navigate to the iCal backup file you created earlier, and select it. In the Import Calendar dialog box, select the calendar to which you'd like to add the events (if you have more than one) from the Calendar pop-up menu and then click the Import button to bring your calendar info in.

By default, iCal syncs with Google Calendar every 15 minutes (or when you add, delete, or change an event on your Mac), but you can change the interval, if you like, by clicking on the Account Information tab in the Preferences window and choosing a new value from the Refresh Calendars pop-up menu.

Calendars and Contacts in iOS To sync contacts and calendars on your iOS device, go to Settings ▶ Mail, Contacts, Calendars and tap Add Account at the bottom of the Accounts list. Tap Microsoft Exchange, enter the full e-mail address associated with your Google account in the Username field and your password in the Password field; leave the Domain field blank. Tap Next. If an Unable To Verify Certificate message appears, tap Accept. In the Server field, enter `m.google.com`, and tap Next again. Make sure Contacts and Calendars are turned on (plus Mail, if you want to sync your Gmail e-mail using Exchange ActiveSync) and tap Done. When prompted to choose a way to handle existing data, tap Delete. Synchronization begins momentarily, and everything happens wirelessly.



Mail App and Gmail When you're finished configuring a Gmail account on your iOS device to use Exchange ActiveSync, the screen should look something like this.

Bookmarks Google can sync bookmarks from its Chrome browser between computers, and can also provide an editable list of bookmarks (at bookmarks.google.com) that you can access within any browser window. However, unlike MobileMe, Google doesn't offer an option for syncing Safari's built-in bookmark list (either the desktop or iOS version).

Instead, you can use a service such as LastPass's Xmarks (www.xmarks.com), which lets you synchronize bookmarks across browsers, devices, and platforms. It supports Safari 4 and 5 on Leopard and Snow Leopard, as well as Firefox 3 and the beta of Firefox 4. Basic service is free, and the $12-per-year Premium version adds iOS support and more.

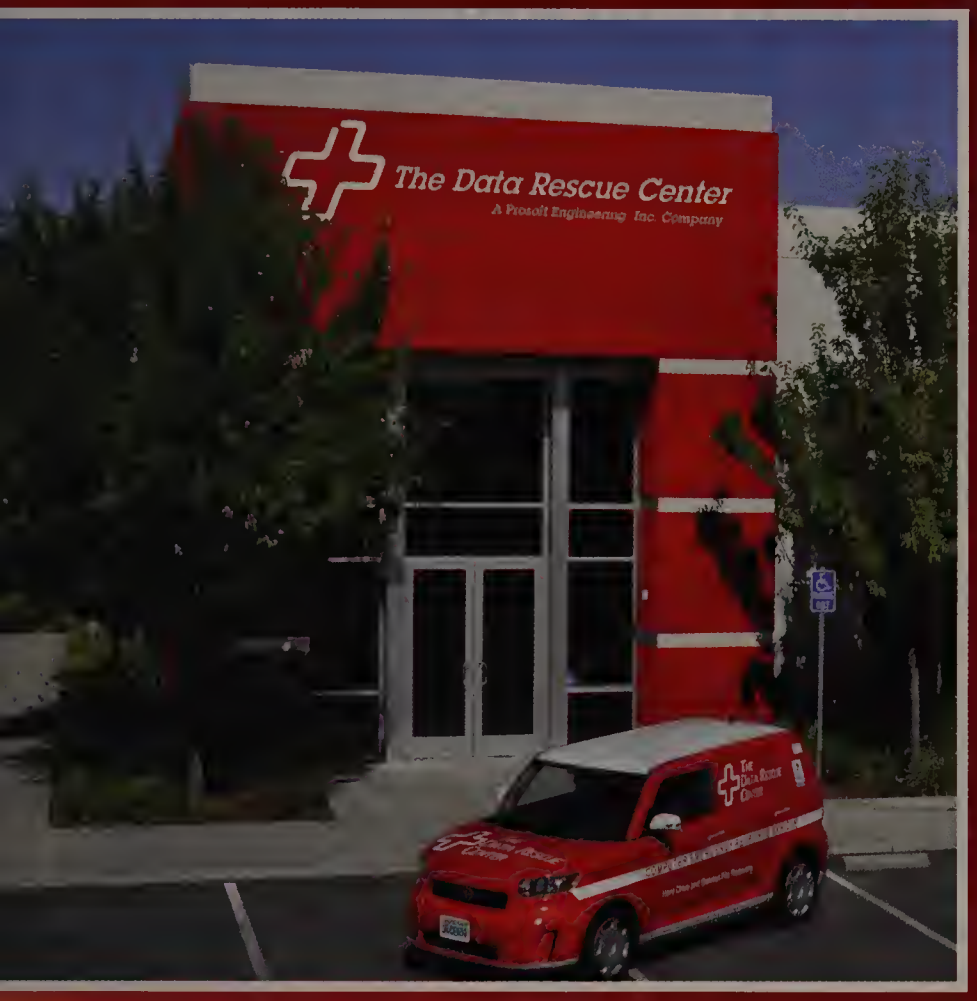
Senior Contributor **Joe Kissell** is the senior editor of TidBits and the author of the e-book *Take Control of MobileMe* (TidBits Publishing, 2010; www.takecontrolbooks.com).

Other Data Types

Interested in using either MobileMe or Google to sync other types of data, such as notes and to-dos, across your devices? Then visit macworld.com/6812 for more info.

The Data Rescue Center

hard drive recovery ▪ data migration ▪ photo archiving



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Outlook 2011: How to Make the Switch

Get off to a good start with Microsoft's new e-mail, calendar, and contacts program

BY JOE KISSELL

If you've upgraded to Microsoft Office 2011 from an earlier edition—or are considering it—you probably know that a new application called Outlook (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/6626) has replaced Entourage (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/6781) for managing e-mail, calendars, and contacts. Switching to Outlook can be disorienting. Here's how to get started.

Getting Oriented

Outlook 2011 is an entirely new application. It may share many of Entourage's features, but it was created from scratch: It isn't based on Entourage, nor is it a port of Outlook 2010 for Windows. In fact, it looks and feels like a blend of Entourage, Outlook 2010, and Apple Mail. But despite some similarities with those other programs, several Outlook features may take some getting used to:

Navigation Controls To switch between views in Outlook (such as from Mail to Calendars), you click buttons at the bottom of the navigation pane rather than in the toolbar (as in Entourage). If those buttons take up too much space, drag the divider bar above them down to collapse them into small icons at the bottom of the window. You can also use the commands on the View ▸ Go To submenu or their associated keyboard shortcuts to navigate.

The Ribbon As in all Office 2011 applications, Outlook uses a strip of each window just below the toolbar to display controls relevant to whatever activity you're doing at the moment. That strip is the Ribbon. You can hide or show it by choosing View ▸ Ribbon (⌘-Option-R) or clicking the small arrow in the Ribbon's upper right corner. If you hide the ribbon, you can use menu commands to accomplish most of the same tasks.

Unified Inbox Outlook lets you configure as many e-mail accounts as you need, and by default it groups all the accounts' Inboxes under a single heading in the navigation pane. Select Inbox to display incoming messages from all your accounts in one list, or click the disclosure triangle next to Inbox to display individual inboxes. To disable this feature, choose Outlook ▸ Preferences, click General, and deselect the Group Similar Folders, Such As Inboxes, From Different Accounts checkbox.

E-mail Conversations By default, Outlook displays all messages from a particular e-mail thread together in your message list. This includes messages you've sent and messages you've filed in other folders. Click the triangle next to the topmost message in the list to expand or contract the conversation. To disable this feature, choose View ▸ Arrange By ▸ and pick a different option.

Keyboard Shortcuts A number of common keyboard shortcuts changed between Entourage 2008 and Outlook 2011; some even took on the opposite meaning! (See our handy shortcut cheat sheet at macworld.com/6782.)

New Things to Try

Some of Outlook's new features can significantly improve your productivity. Take a few minutes to try them out.

Sharing Resources Groups who connect to the same Exchange server can share resources such as calendars, contacts, and notes. To do so, select the item you want to share in Outlook's navigation pane. Then choose File ▸ Folder ▸ Permissions (or click the Permissions button in the Ribbon's Organize tab). In the resulting dialog box, add users from your Exchange server and assign each one permission to view, edit, and/or delete items. Shared items then appear in those other users' navigation panes.

Easier Scheduling If you use Exchange, you can also view colleagues' schedules to plan meetings. Create an

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX EBEN MEYER

event by choosing File ▸ New ▸ Meeting, and fill in the details, including other people you want to attend. Then click the Scheduling Assistant tab to check the schedules of all the participants and find a time that's good for all of them.

Time Machine Support Entourage didn't play well with OS X's Time Machine: Because it stored all e-mail messages, contacts, and events in a single database file, merely checking your e-mail regularly could force Time Machine to back up that huge file every time it ran. The conventional response was to exclude your Entourage database from Time Machine backups. With Outlook, you don't have to do that. The database is much smaller, and messages are stored as individual files, which Time Machine can back up quickly. Unfortunately, you can't restore deleted messages from within Outlook.

Quick Look When you receive an e-mail message with an attachment, you can now preview the latter with OS X's Quick Look. Select the attachment in the header of the message and press the spacebar, or click the Preview button. If the file is of a type that Quick Look understands (Microsoft Office, iWork, PDF, and most graphics, audio, and video formats), Outlook displays the contents in a pop-up window.

Things You Might Miss

A few features you may have depended on in Entourage aren't in Outlook.

Mini-Month Calendar In Entourage, a mini one-month calendar appeared in the lower left corner of the window in every view. In Outlook for Mac, it appears—optionally—only in Calendar view.

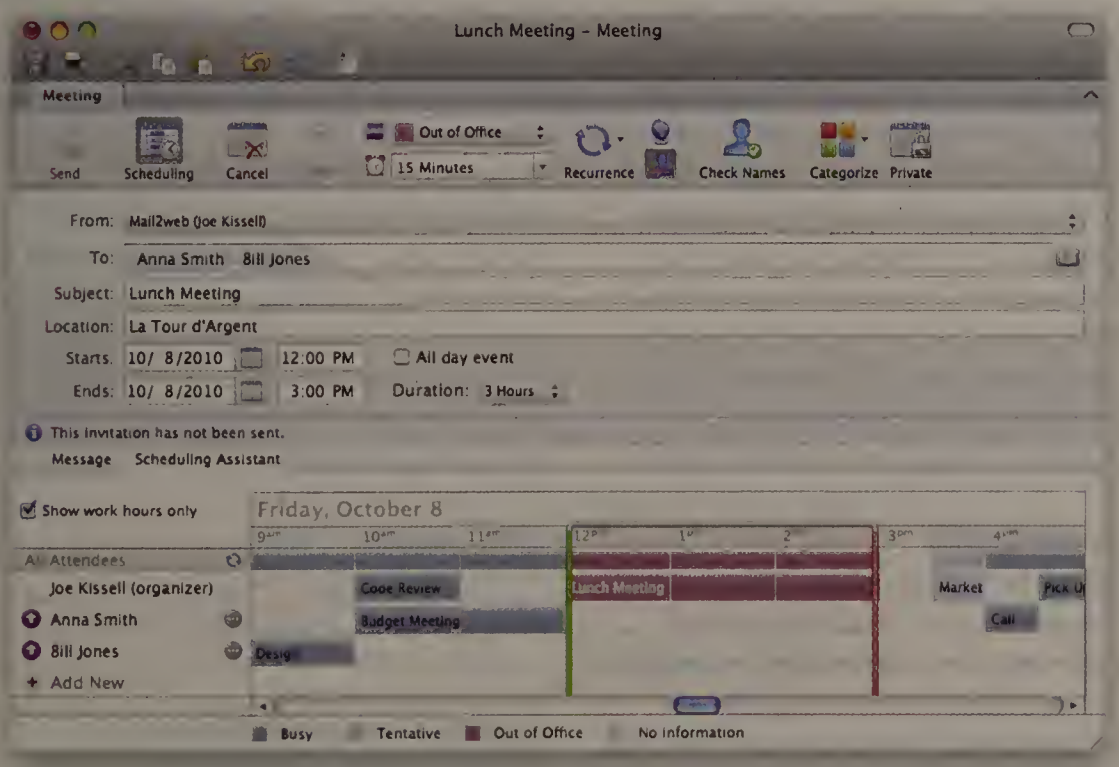
Project Center Entourage's Project Center provided a central location for viewing and working with all the resources (e-mail, contacts, tasks, and so on) associated with a project. Outlook has no such feature; it converts your erstwhile projects into categories.

Newsreader Entourage let you connect to newsgroups; Outlook doesn't.

E-mail Redirect In Entourage, you could redirect an incoming e-mail message to someone else, so that the original sender's address showed as the From address. In Outlook you can only forward or reply to a message.

Searching in IMAP Accounts Outlook, like Entourage, lets you search the contents of messages downloaded to your Mac. Entourage also let you search IMAP messages, which aren't downloaded. Outlook can't do that.

Senior Contributor **Joe Kissell** is the senior editor of TidBits and the author of *Mac Security Bible* (Wiley, 2010).



Easier Group Scheduling When scheduling a meeting, you can see others' schedules right in the new meeting window.

Outlook FAQ

Q: Will Outlook import from Apple's Mail, iCal, and Address Book?

A: Outlook 2011 will sync contacts with Address Book, and you can sync e-mail accounts with Mail. However, Outlook 2011 won't sync events or tasks with iCal (in part because Microsoft's primary design goal with Outlook was to make it work with Exchange).

Q: Does Outlook still use Exchange Web Services (EWS) for e-mail? Or does it use WebDAV or MAPI?

A: Outlook uses EWS. Microsoft says that it has no plans to move to WebDAV or MAPI.

Q: Will Outlook sync with MobileMe?

A: Outlook 2011 supports MobileMe's contacts; you can also sync your MobileMe e-mail account with Outlook 2011. Outlook 2011 does not support MobileMe calendars or tasks.

Q: Can Outlook sync with Gmail and Google Calendar?

A: Outlook 2011 will work with Gmail accounts and contacts, but not with Google Calendar.

Q: Will Outlook's calendar and contacts sync easily with the iPhone?

A: Because the iPhone supports Exchange accounts, and because Outlook is designed primarily for use with Exchange servers, you should be able to access your e-mail, calendar, contacts, and tasks with your iPhone. You should also be able to work with your company's global address list and calendars.

Q: Can you make Outlook use the Mac OS Address Book as the default contact list?

A: You can sync the two, bringing your Address Book into Outlook automatically.

1Password 3

Nearly indispensable password-management program ups your security

BY JOHN BRANDON

REVIEW Security pros say it's best to use a unique password that's at least eight characters long for each site or account you use. Unfortunately, it's hard to remember all those passwords or to securely keep track of them. (A pile of sticky notes doesn't count as secure.) Agile Web Solutions' 1Password 3 is one of the best password-management tools I've encountered. What I like most is that bringing 1Password into play lets me use good passwords without changing my computing habits too much.

All in One Place 1Password can collect all of your personal information for a given site—not just your login and password—in one place, where it's easy to manage.

Manage Your Passwords

The 1Password opening screen looks like a bank vault—it's where you enter your master password when you first start the program. Folders on the left hold your account info. There are also places to create and store secure notes you make to yourself ("Remember to hire a private detective"), software license information including serial numbers, and a wallet for storing credit card and bank info. You can even drag and drop an application into the vault to save the program's license info. However, 1Password is most useful when it's used to track Web account information.

Whenever you register for a new site, enter in a serial number for an online program, or fill out a form at, say, Amazon.com to buy a product, 1Password pops up in an unassuming way and prompts you to name the entry and save the information. Likewise, you can save credit card information in a secure identity that you reuse by selecting that card from a drop-down menu in Safari (or other popular browsers). For example, you can create an identity for PayPal that stores all of your PayPal account info. The next time you make a purchase with PayPal, 1Password will provide all of the information you need for the transaction.

1Password worked fine with Safari and Firefox. Past versions of 1Password required a plug-in to work with Google Chrome, but as of version 3.5, the software supports Chrome out of the box.

Access Passwords Anywhere

One exceptionally cool feature is called 1PasswordAnywhere. It lets you upload your master password file to an online service like Dropbox.com and then view the file online. You don't even need to have 1Password installed when you access that file—which means you can access it from Linux and Windows computers. (You can do so because the master file contains the Web formatting required to view passwords, serial numbers, and any other data.) Also, iOS versions of the program lets you manage your passwords on the go (for an additional fee).

Some Quirks

One of the only problems I encountered was when I tried to change a stored password. The program seems to assume that you want to keep using the old password until you go into the vault itself and make the change. I'd prefer to be able to change a password from anywhere. Another problem (Agile might call it a feature) is that there is no way to recover your master password if you forget it. Finally, I wish there were a small-business version that allowed a company to store on a server all the logins and passwords for all employees; the company could then back up that master file.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Overall, 1Password 3 works as expected. The program runs unobtrusively in the background, popping up only when you need to save or enter login info. And when you want to dive into your logins and passwords, it provides exactly the right data in a clean interface.

John Brandon is a former IT manager at a Fortune 100 company who now writes about consumer and business technology.

; $40; Agile Web Solutions, www.agilewebsolutions.com; full review: macworld.com/6722

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Protect the MacBook Air in Style

BY SERENITY CALDWELL

Apple's 11-inch MacBook Air has certainly lightened owners' bags—and wallets—since its debut last October. Weighing a mere 2.3 pounds and measuring only 0.68 inch at its thickest point, the diminutive laptop tends to swim in messenger bags and sleeves made for more corpulent computers. Thankfully, manufacturers have come up with a variety of options that protect your MacBook Air from life's bumps and look good while doing it.

Keep It Protected

Love your larger bag or backpack, but still want to keep your MacBook Air nice and cozy? San Francisco–based WaterField Designs has miniaturized its Laptop SleeveCase ($37 to $113, www.sfbags.com) line for Apple's newest laptop. Encase your Air in a neoprene-and-nylon home, replete with all sorts of customizations. You can orient the sleeve horizontally or vertically, change the trim style, or add a flap or shoulder strap. Even without the extras, the SleeveCase remains one of the best ways to give your computer a protective and secure home.

Put It to Work

When you want to look professional without sacrificing functionality, WaterField Designs' 11-inch Muzetto ($219; www.sfbags.com) offers the perfect compromise. Clad in tanned brown leather, the messenger features a colored-cloth-and-neoprene interior for protecting not only your Air, but any other gadgets you happen to be carrying around. A smaller front pocket can hold an iPad, a sketchbook, or any number of smaller things, while the bag's main pocket is perfect for the Air and a book or two. The Muzetto's hardy leather strap is very comfortable on the shoulder.

Strut Your Style

It's hard to find a bag that captures the eye *and* fulfills all the items on your feature wish list, but Stash Bags' 11-inch Messenger (♦♦♦♦; $115; www.stash-bags.com) does just that. Handcrafted from canvas and vintage fabrics that change with availability, it features a built-in laptop sleeve and five pockets (two in front, three more inside), in addition to its main compartment—enough for your Air and a few other goodies, too. The messenger's impeccable construction makes it easy to tote around just about anywhere, and an adjustable strap allows you to easily convert it from laptop messenger bag to purse.

Skintight Suede

If you're carrying an Air in the first place, chances are you'll want a bag that's as light as possible. For keeping your computer free of scratches and dents without adding paunch, look at WaterField Designs' Suede Jacket Sleeve ($25; www.sfbags.com). The slim, black suede case provides a skin-tight fit for your Air, protecting it from other items in your bag without adding a lot of bulk or weight. Two loops on either side make slipping the case on easy. While not the hardiest case on the market, the Suede Jacket Sleeve makes up for it with style and lightness—much like the Air itself.

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

MiFi 2372, from AT&T (www.wireless.att.com): Pocketable mini-router supports five simultaneous Wi-Fi–connected devices ($50 with two-year contract).

SOFTWARE

Google Earth 6, from Google (www.google.com): 3D geography program adds integrated Street Views, historical imagery, and trees (free).

RapidWeaver 5, from Realmac Software (www.realmacsoftware.com): Website creation and blogging program adds new Site Resources manager and more ($79).

SugarSync, from SugarSync (www.sugarsync.com): Web-based file sharing and backup service has increased its basic storage space from 2GB to 5GB (free).

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REVIEWS

Hardware and Software for All Your Business Needs

HARDWARE

Lexmark C792de ▷

The Lexmark C792de color laser printer is one of the better workgroup printers we've tested to date. The 4.3-inch color LCD touchscreen on the printer's front control panel provides a flexible interface for advanced printer features such as print previews and shortcuts to online forms or marketing materials you use often. The control panel also sports a USB drive port and an alphanumeric keypad. The C792de was a top performer in our tests. When printing monochrome pages (mostly plain text, with a few simple grayscale graphics), the printer averaged a fast 19.4 pages per minute. A larger, more complex full-page photo emerged at a respectable 0.8 ppm. The machine's print quality is among the best we've seen from a color laser. This is a printer that could handle finer graphics work in addition to everyday pie charts and spot color. Printing costs average 3.1 cents for a black-only page and 17.4 cents for a four-color page. Higher-yield inks improve those numbers, but the printer's overall toner prices are on the high side (macworld.com/6784).

●●●●; $1599; Lexmark, www.lexmark.com

NEC MultiSync PA271W △

For people who require more control over on-screen color, who want a little extra flexibility in terms of ergonomic adjustments, who are sensitive to the glare from glossy screens, or who use a Mac without a Mini DisplayPort connection, an Apple display just won't cut it. NEC's MultiSync PA271W is a 27-inch widescreen LCD with 2560-by-1440-pixel resolution, 300 cd/m2 brightness, a 1000:1 contrast ratio, multiple inputs, and a plethora of tools for setting (and maintaining) accurate color. It offers a height adjustment, swivels from left to right, tilts back and forth, and even rotates into portrait mode. The PA271W offers two DVI-D ports, as well as a standard DisplayPort connector. You can use these connectors to attach two computers. The display can track and adjust its backlight output to ensure consistent brightness over time, and it sports a 14-bit 3D color-lookup table. NEC has worked hard to enable its CCFL backlights to get to a ready state in much less time—under one minute—than was previously necessary. For color professionals looking for a large, glare-free, ergonomically adjustable display with tons of color-tweaking tools and technology for achieving and maintaining accurate color over time, the NEC MultiSync PA271W really delivers (macworld.com/6718).

●●●●½; $1399; NEC, www.necdisplay.com

Ooma Telo ▷

The Ooma Telo is an affordable and versatile replacement system for your landline phone. It's like Vonage without the monthly subscription charges, and like the MagicJack without the computer requirement. When you buy the stylish Telo adapter, you effectively buy free local and long-distance phone service for life. Ooma offers highly competitive international rates, too, as well as free calls to other Ooma owners. The adapter plugs directly into your router or broadband modem, and it works with existing phone handsets. The Ooma Telo's calling features are somewhat limited: You get voicemail, call waiting, and caller ID, but that's it. If you want more, Ooma Premier adds a second line, three-way calling, voicemail via e-mail, and a host of privacy features. The Telo includes a 60-day Premier trial; after that, a subscription to Premier will cost you $10 per month or $120 annually. Sign up for a year, and Ooma will waive its steep $40 fee for porting an existing number. In our tests, Ooma's call quality was far superior to that of Vonage or Google Voice, and on a par with that of NetTalk Duo—crisp and echo-free every time (macworld.com/6785).

●●●●; $250; Ooma, www.ooma.com

Xerox ColorQube 8570DN ▷

Xerox's ColorQube uses solid-ink supplies rather than liquid ink or powdered toner. Solid ink is both economical and environmentally friendly, since it lacks the plastic housing and other nonbiodegradable components of toner or ink cartridges. Pages consisting primarily of text, but with a smattering of simple monochrome graphics, printed at 10.2 pages per minute on the Mac—an average speed. The quality was pretty good: Text was deep black, but with slightly jagged edges on thinner fonts. The unit's photo-printing speed was impressive: A 22MB, full-page color photo exited at a rate of about 2.1 ppm—twice as fast as we normally see. Unfortunately, photo and color-graphics quality is noticeably

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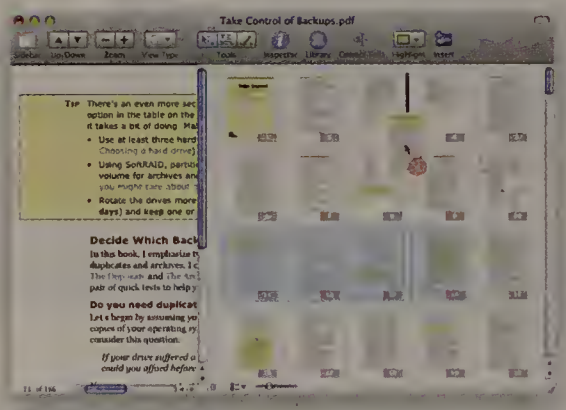
grainier than the norm, and the palette looked slightly washed out. For business graphics, however, the quality is acceptable. The ColorQube 8570DN's configuration includes a bottom-loading, 525-sheet cassette; a front-loading, 100-sheet multipurpose tray; and a top-loading, 200-sheet output tray. The unit we tested supported ethernet and USB. Its price is $200 higher than that of its ColorQube 8570N cousin, because it can print duplex (on both sides) automatically. In total, you can print a four-color page for about 12.5 cents (macworld.com/6783).

●●●; $899; Xerox, www.office.xerox.com



SOFTWARE

PDFpen 5 △

It's easy to create a PDF, but it's often hard to then make changes to the document or trim it down to a more manageable file size. PDFpen 5 is a powerful Mac-only tool that helps you edit PDF files. It's more affordable than Adobe Acrobat Pro (which costs $449), but provides many of the same features. With PDFpen, for example, you can quickly view any PDF file and flip pages forward and back, zoom in and out, and view the document's thumbnails. Tools for inserting new text and images, changing existing text, resampling embedded images to make the PDF document smaller, drawing shapes on a document, and even adding proofreader marks make PDFpen a powerful and worthwhile tool. The PDFpen interface is not designed for PDF newbies, though: While advanced tools help you get the job done, menu options and palettes can be confusing. Still, for those ready to dive into a PDF and make changes, PDFpen's features make editing not only possible, but speedy (macworld.com/6786).

●●●●; $60; Smile, www.smilesoftware.com

Top Products YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

HARD DRIVES
Desktop

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
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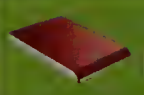
iT1 Dock www.istoragepro.com	●●●●	$329 (2TB)	quad interface	5843
My Book Studio (pictured) www.wdc.com.	●●●●	$180 (2TB)	triple interface	6849



HARD DRIVES
Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
eGo Mac Edition www.iomega.com	●●●●	$111 (500GB)	triple interface	5219
FreeAgent GoFlex Ultra-Portable Drive (pictured) www.seagate.com	●●●●	$70 (500GB)	single interface	6631
Mercury On-the-Go www.macsales.com	●●●●½	$180 (320GB, 7200 rpm)	triple interface	4258

INPUT DEVICES
Keyboards, Mice, Pen Tablets

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
Intuos4 Wireless intuos.wacom.com	●●●●½	$385	pen tablet	6422
Magic Trackpad www.apple.com	●●●●	$60	trackpad	6436
TactilePro 3 (pictured) www.matias.ca	●●●●½	$150	keyboard	6421

PRINTERS
Laser

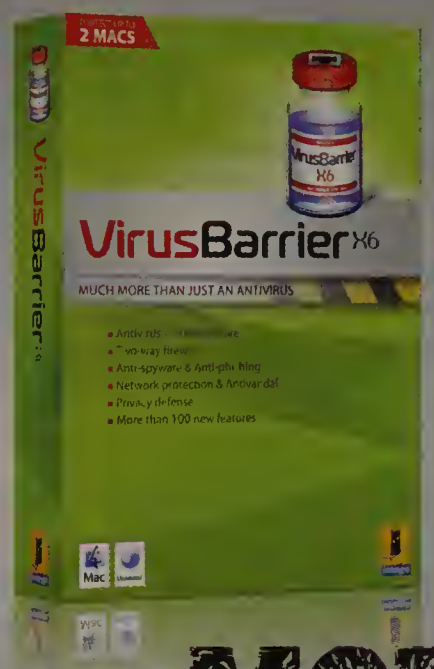
PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
5130cdn (pictured) www.dell.com	●●●●½	$1549	LED, color	6009
C544DN www.lexmark.com	●●●●½	$289	LED, color	4356
HL-4070CDW www.brother-usa.com	●●●●½	$430	PostScript-compatible	3385

PRINTERS
Multifunction

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
Artisan 725 Arctic Edition (pictured) www.epson.com	●●●●	$200	inkjet	6758
Color LaserJet CM1312nfi www.hp.com	●●●●	$352	laser	5183
Pixma MG5220 www.usa.canon.com	●●●½	$90	inkjet	6850

[A] All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. [B] In a browser's address field, typing a find code after *macworld.com/* takes you to a product's review or overview.

NEW VERSION



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Also available is **Internet Security Barrier X6,** which includes VirusBarrier X6 and four other Intego programs, providing parental control, backup, antispam, confidential document protection features and much more.

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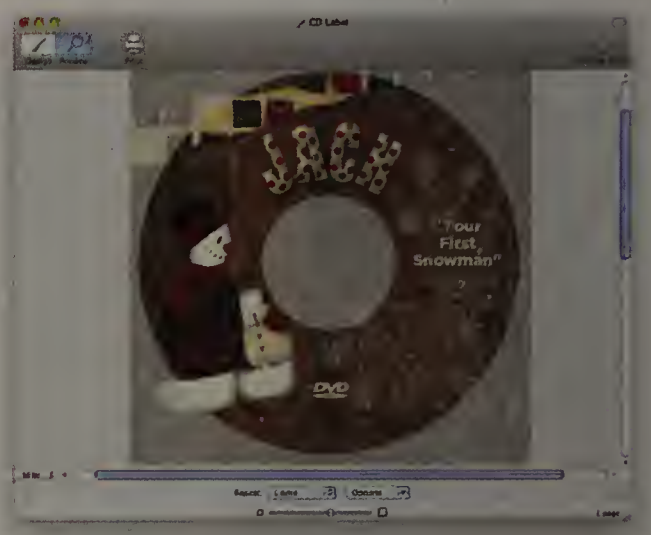
Mozy 2.0 Improves Backup Performance

Mozy 2.0 (www.mozy.com) adds performance and stability improvements to the backup service's Mac software. This version brings a number of the enhanced features and functionality of the Windows counterpart to Mac users, including faster upload speeds generated by optimized bandwidth usage and quicker file scanning.

Mozy makes regularly scheduled backups of your data to the service's secure online servers, keeping all your data safe in "the cloud" and away from hazards like theft, individual hard-drive failure, or floods. After the initial backup, Mozy makes incremental backups of new or changed portions of files, much like Apple's Time Machine does.

Mozy 2.0 comes in two flavors: MozyHome, aimed at the home user, and MozyPro, designed for business servers. The software—which runs on OS X 10.4 or later—is available as a free download, but you must pay a monthly subscription fee for your online backups. MozyHome is $5 per month with unlimited storage. With MozyPro, a license for each desktop computer you wish to back up costs $4 per month plus $0.50/GB per month, while a server license costs $7 per month plus $0.50/GB per month.—**DAVID DAHLQUIST**

SOHO Labels 5 Delivers the Office Goods



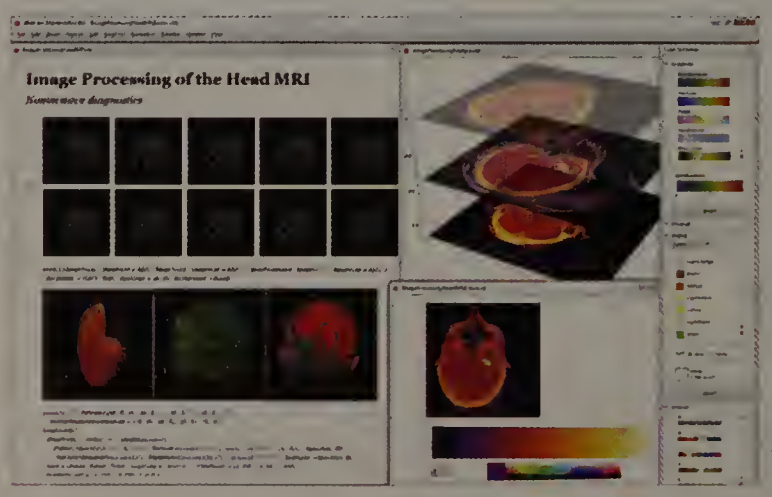
Want your lables to look professional, but don't particularly want to spend gobs of time making it happen? Chronos aims to help with SOHO Labels 5 (www.chronosnet.com).

New graphics collections, called iScrapKits, make it easier to find fitting background images or design elements via simple text searches. Preview the results with the Cover Flow–like browser. The software's Smart Template system includes more than 300 templates to get you started with your design. Also new in SOHO Labels 5 is a more useful font preview system, a Trim-To-Label feature for more-accurate previews, automatic image resizing, 23 iScrapKits, and more. A free 30-day demo that requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 (Leopard) or later is available; a new single license costs $40 and a family pack of five licenses is $70. Owners of any previous version can upgrade for $25.—**DAVID CHARTIER**

Wolfram Research Intros Mathematica 8

Wolfram Research has updated its award-winning computational software used in science, engineering, and mathematics. Mathematica 8 (www.wolfram.com) now integrates with the company's Wolfram|Alpha Website to allow you to access computable data from many fields and import data in many formats. It also makes it possible for you to enter plain-language queries—for example, `pi 2000 digits`—instead of puzzling over correct syntax.

New core algorithms add calculating power sure to pique the interest of people in many fields. Probability and statistics tools let you compute the probability of any event or the expectation of any expression. The program includes a large collection of statistical distributions and automatic high-level solvers including parametric statistical distributions. The program improves on its state-of-the-art image processing and analysis functions. It also adds new interoperability with C and C++, allowing you to convert Mathematica programs into C code.



Mathematica 8 is available now for Mac users on Intel systems with OS X 10.5 or later. The program runs on both 32-bit and 64-bit Intel Macs. The standard edition costs $2495. Mathematica 8 Home Edition is not yet available.—**SCHOLLE SAWYER MCFARLAND**

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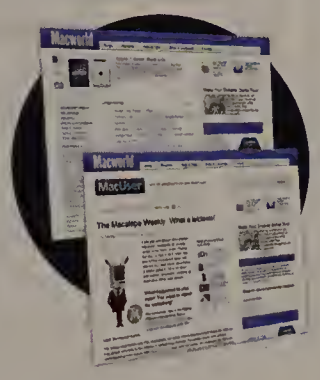

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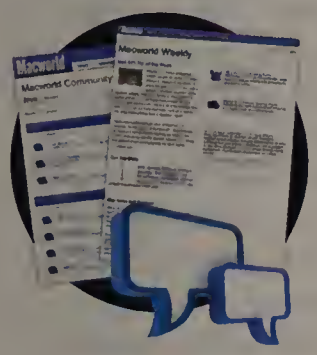

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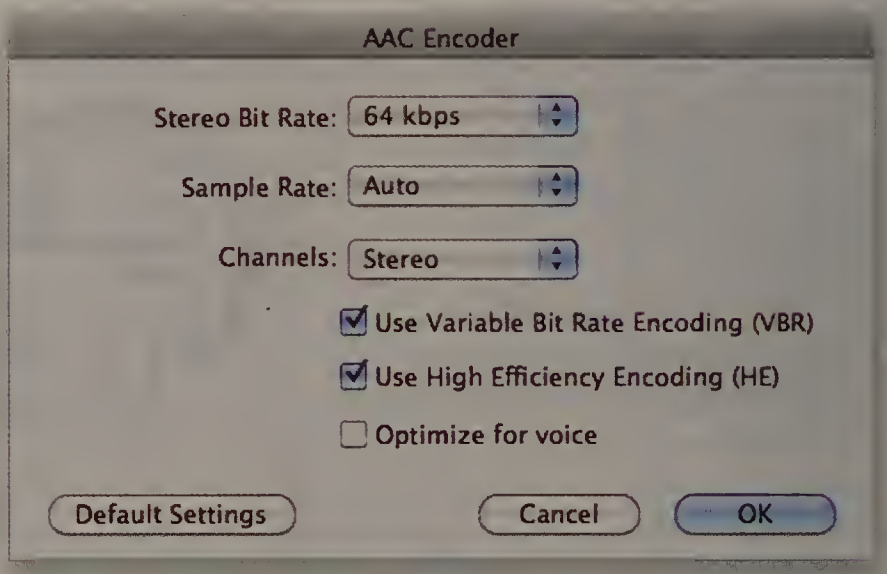
Audiobooks: From CD to iPod

The best ways to import books-on-disc into iTunes

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

Although you can download digital audiobooks from the iTunes Store or Audible (www.audible.com), you can also buy audiobooks on CD and add them to your iTunes library yourself. But if you do the latter, you need to rip them and then use special strategies to manage and enjoy the resulting files.



Audiobook Settings Here are the ideal settings for ripping audiobooks.

Ripping Audiobook CDs

You won't want to use the same import settings for books as you do for songs, because spoken-word recordings don't need the same audio quality as music.

Settings Before you rip the first CD, go to iTunes ▸ Preferences in iTunes 10, click on the General tab, and then click on Import Settings. If you're planning to listen to the audiobook only on an iPod or in iTunes, choose AAC Encoder from the Import Using pop-up menu. (For other players or software, choose MP3 for better compatibility.)

You can choose from two types of settings. The first is the simplest: From the Setting pop-up menu, choose Spoken Podcast. This contains most of the settings I'll mention later. However, since most audiobooks are recorded in stereo, these settings have iTunes rip in stereo, which generally isn't necessary—ripping in mono will take up half the disk space as stereo.

If you want to use more-detailed settings, choose Custom from the Setting pop-up menu. For Stereo Bit Rate, choose 64 kbps; voice needs only a small amount of data to sound good. Leave the sample rate at Auto. For Channels, most books sound fine in mono; I only use Stereo for "full-cast productions," such as plays, where several performers are spread across the soundscape. (Note that the above settings give you 32-kbps mono files; 64 kbps is the *stereo* bit rate; when you choose Mono, that bit rate is halved.)

Don't use the same import settings for books and for songs—spoken-word recordings don't need the same audio quality as music.

To get the most out of your encoding, select the Optimize For Voice and Use High Efficiency Encoding (HE) checkboxes. The former limits the frequency ranges used to those needed for voices, and the latter provides better encoding at low bit rates. (Note that HE encoding doesn't work on older iPods.) Then click on OK three times to save your changes.

Ripping Most audiobooks range from about five to a dozen discs, and each disc is generally split up into many files. There are two ways you can import your audiobooks, depending on whether you want one file per disc or a lot of files. The former makes it a bit easier to keep track of the files but the latter can make it easier to spot chapter and section breaks. If you want to join all the files on a disc, select all its files and then choose Advanced ▸ Join CD Tracks.

Whether or not you join tracks, the next thing you need to do is tag your files. Select all the tracks on the CD and then press ⌘-I; this brings up the Info window for multiple items. The easiest way to tag audiobooks is to put the author's name in the Artist field and the book's title in the Album field. Set the genre to Audiobook or Spoken Word; and if the disc number doesn't show up, add it—otherwise your files will be out of order after you've ripped all your discs.

One important thing to do is to click the Options tab and then choose Yes from the Remember Position pop-up menu. Click

OK to save this information—this will let your iPod or iTunes keep your place when you pause in the middle of a long file.

Next, click on the Import CD button at the bottom right of the iTunes window. Do so for each disc and, when you're done, look for the "album" in your library; it will contain all the files you have just imported, in the proper order.

Listening to Your Audiobooks

Now that you've gotten your audiobooks into iTunes, you have two options. If you've joined the tracks, you might as well put them into your Books library. Select all the tracks, press ⌘-I, and then click on the Options tab. From the Media Kind drop-down menu, choose Audiobook and then click on OK. You'll then find the files in the Books library in iTunes, and, on your iOS device, under the Audiobooks menu.

But you can also use a smart playlist to listen to an audiobook; this is the best way to listen if you have lots of files and haven't joined the tracks of each disc, but it also works fine with joined tracks. Instead of choosing the book from the Books library, you'll find it in the Playlists section both in iTunes and on your iOS device when you're done.

First, you need to set some options for these files. Select them all, press ⌘-I, and then click the Options tab. Enable both Remember Position and Skip When Shuffling. The first option means that whenever you stop listening, iTunes or your iOS device will remember where you stopped. The second prevents these files from popping up when you shuffle songs on an iOS device, or with iTunes DJ in iTunes. (When you set the files to the Audiobooks media kind, these two options are set automatically.)

Now, create a smart playlist, and enter the author's name in the field after Artist Contains. Then click on the plus-sign (+) button to the right of the Artist field, choose Album from the first pop-up menu of the new line that displays, and enter the name of the book in this field. Click on the plus-sign button again, and choose Plays Is 0. Make sure the Live Updating box is checked, and then click on OK.

The reason for the Plays line is that after you listen to a file, its count will increase to 1, and it'll be removed from the smart playlist. This will continue until you get to the end of the book.

Finally, name the playlist with the name of the book. If you have a very long book and don't want to sync all of its files, you can limit the number of files the playlist contains from the Limit To option in your smart playlist: Choose a number of files or hours, and make sure you choose to have them selected by album so they stay in the right order.

With these techniques, you can make listening to audiobooks on your iPod as easy as listening to music.

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs on his blog, Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com). His latest book is *Take Control of iTunes 10: The FAQ* (TidBits Publishing, 2010; www.takecontrolbooks.com).

Smart Playlists With smart playlists, you can organize your audiobooks and control their playback.

Selling Music by the Second

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

In the past year, a number of new classical music download sites have come along, and others have made changes to adapt to market demands. One such site, eClassical (www.eclassical.com), has undergone a major face-lift and come up with a unique pricing scheme.

Music sites (including the iTunes Store) have traditionally sold music downloads priced by the song or album. Since selling classical music by the song doesn't usually make sense, eClassical prices its music by the length of the piece—specifically, by the second. At 0.2 cent per second for MP3 and FLAC files, and 0.3 cent per second for 24-bit (high-resolution) FLACs, eClassical's pricing strategy means that most albums cost less than they do elsewhere—but that the prices differ according to the albums' length.

Buyers will pay less for a 40-minute album ($4.80) than they will for a 70-minute disc ($8.40), and eClassical will sell you FLAC files—lossless audio files that are akin to Apple Lossless files but aren't natively playable via iTunes—for the same price.

The Swedish eClassical has only a handful of labels for now, notably Bis Records (bis.se) and Hänssler Classic (www.haenssler-classic.de/en), but it would be good to see more join the site and adopt this method of pricing.

Bring Your Old Dock Speakers into the Present

BY DAN FRAKES

It used to be that if you had a set of speakers with a 30-pin dock connector, that system would work with any of Apple's mobile music devices. Sadly, that's no longer the case, as many owners of older speaker systems have discovered.

A few years back, Apple decided to modify the dock-connector port. Whereas older iPods charged via the dock connector's FireWire circuitry—remember, early iPods were FireWire-only—newer iPods, as well as the iPhone and iPad, charge and sync only over USB. Which means that if you stick your iPhone in an older iPod dock, there's a good chance the dock won't charge the iPhone—even if it has no problems playing audio from the phone.

At the same time, most docking speakers aren't compatible with the iPad because an iPhone-size dock cradle can't accommodate the iPad's large size.

But before you rush out and buy new speakers, consider using an accessory designed to let you use newer players with older audio systems. You may end up extending the life of your current speakers while saving quite a bit of money.

Dock-Connector Charging Converters

When it comes to charging, the main problem for older dock-connector accessories is simply that Apple changed which of the connector's 30 pins carries power; the connector's audio features have been largely untouched. So if an inexpensive accessory could reroute power from the older power pins to the pins your iPhone or recent iPod uses for power, you'd be able to get around this charging challenge.

CableJive's $23 dockStubz (pictured above; www.cablejive.com), for example, is a tiny dongle that sits between your dock-

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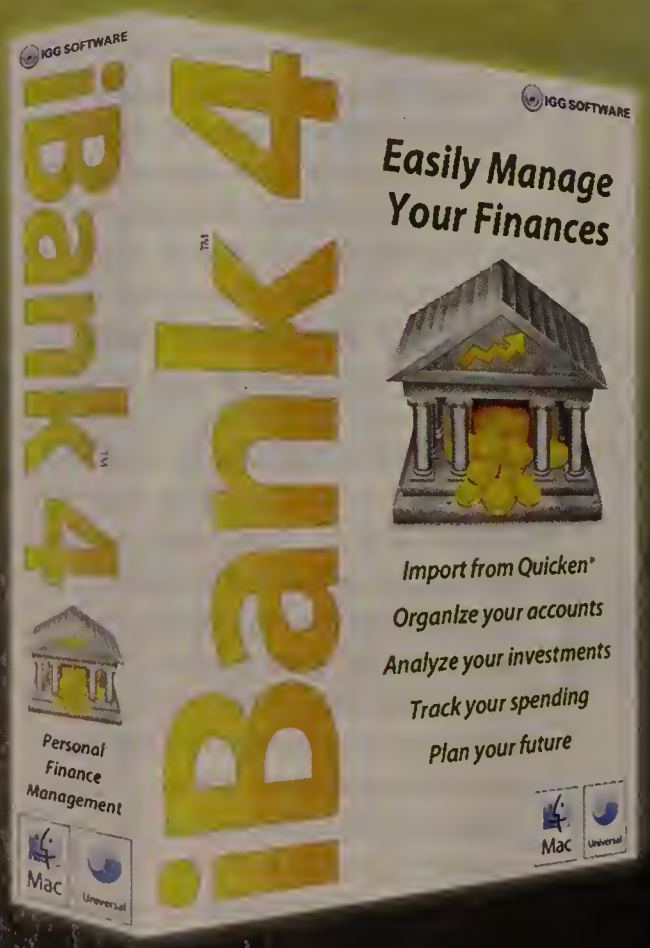

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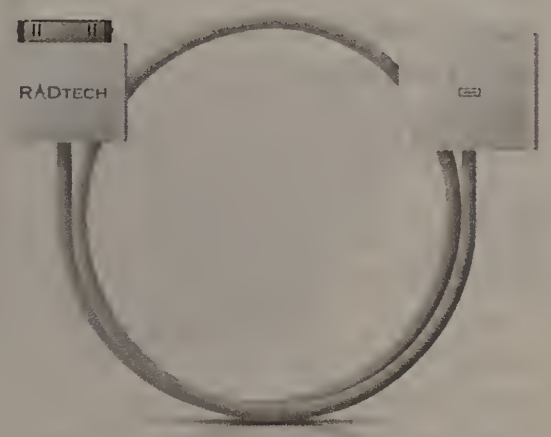
cradle speakers and your iPod or iPhone, converting the charging circuitry while passing all other functionality through untouched. And if, for whatever reason, the speaker system's dock isn't providing *enough* power, a mini-USB port on the side of the dockStubz lets you connect a USB cable to provide additional power.

Scosche provides a similar dongle, without a mini-USB port, in the $25 Charging Adapter for iPod & iPhone (www.scosche.com), but the company's more-appealing offering—at least when it comes to speaker docks—is the $40 iPod & iPhone Charging Adapter for Home Docks. This Universal Dock converter snaps into any compatible cradle and provides its own cradle on top, converting the charging circuitry along the way.

Dock-Connector Extenders

As mentioned earlier, the biggest challenge in using an iPad with most docking speakers is that the iPad is simply too big to fit in the dock cradle. What you need is a way to extend the dock connector so you can plug in the iPad without having to fit it in the speaker itself.

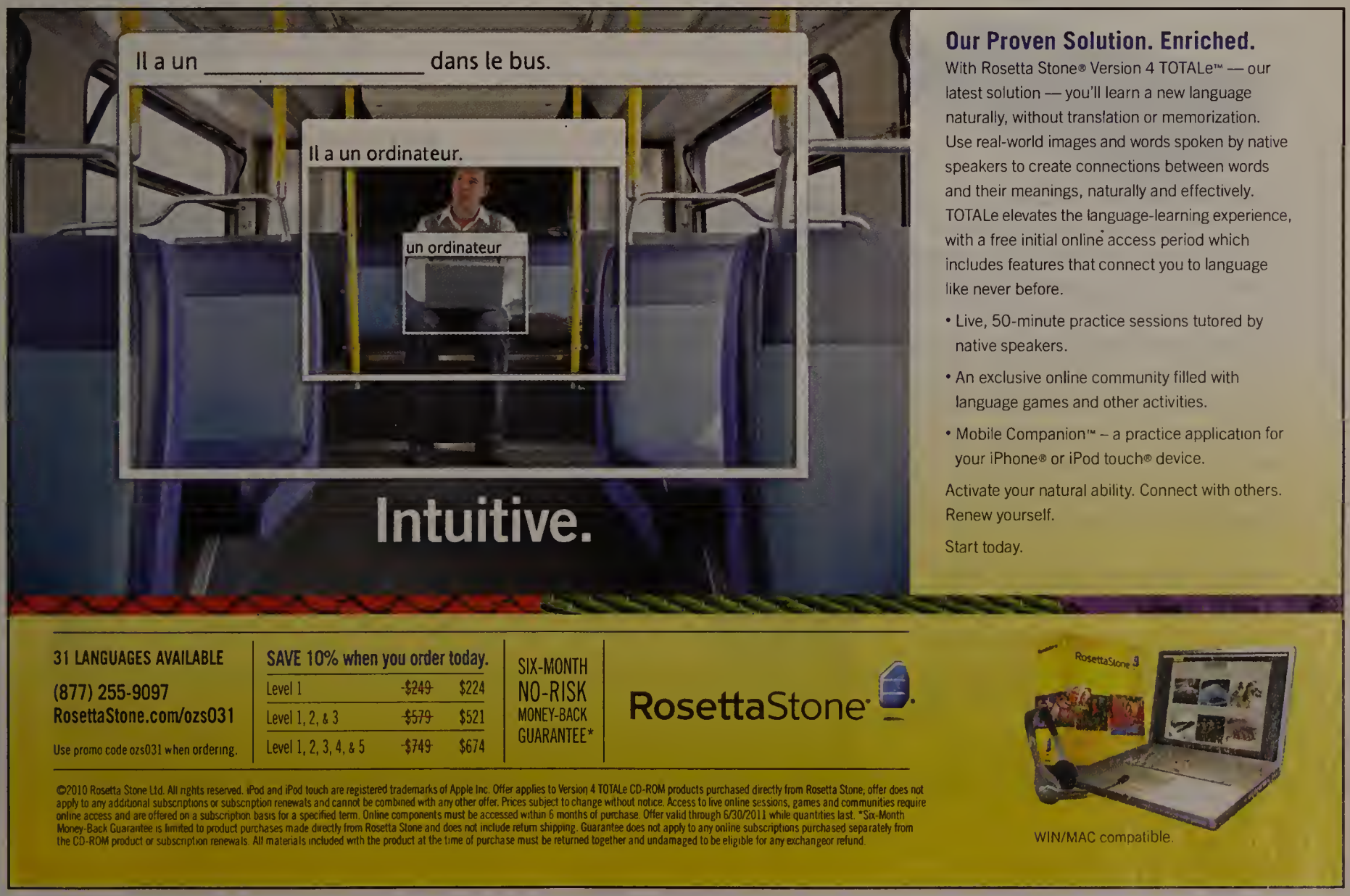
CableJive also has you covered here. The company's dockXtender (2-foot, $26; 6-foot, $32) is a cable that extends your speaker's dock-connector plug—by either two or six feet—so you can use the speakers with any iPad, iPhone, or iPod. (The dockXtender is also useful for when your iPhone or iPod is in a case that's too bulky to let you place the player in your speaker's dock cradle.)



RadTech offers a similar product, the Dock Extender Cable (pictured below; 19-inch, $15; 47-inch, $20; www.radtech.us). RadTech's offering uses slimmer and more-flexible cabling, but it doesn't pass through all dock-connector functionality. Specifically, RadTech says that the cable doesn't support audio input or S-Video output.

What You Can't Avoid

Unfortunately, there are issues you won't be able to avoid. First, speakers designed for iPods and iPhones will charge an iPad very slowly because of the iPad's higher power requirements. Second, if your older speaker system wasn't designed with mobile phones in mind, it may produce static or buzzing when it's used with an iPhone or iPad, due to wireless interference.



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REVIEWS

Home Entertainment Hardware, Software, and Accessories

HARDWARE

D-Link Boxee Box ▷

The Boxee Box set-top box promises to be a great addition to a connected home—once it implements all of its premium service offerings and fixes the bugs. The petite, two-sided remote is nice (although a backlight would have been a welcome touch for the keyboard side), and the interface is one of the best we've seen. For user-friendly access to a wide selection of paid and free content, both on the Web and within your own local-area network, a fully baked Boxee Box may well be the polyhedron you've been waiting for (macworld.com/6859).

●●●½; $199; D-Link; www.boxee.tv

LG Electronics BX580 △

The LG BX580 Blu-ray player does an excellent job of turning the bits on a DVD or Blu-ray disc into stunning images. Its Internet content and multimedia capabilities are among the best. And for a 3D Blu-ray player, the $230 estimated street price is remarkably reasonable. Above all else, the BX580's excellent image quality makes this player a strong contender (macworld.com/6860).

●●●●½; $349; LG Electronics; www.lg.com

Radius Atomic Bass 2 + Mic Earphones

The Atomic Bass 2 + Mic Earphones occupy a somewhat awkward price point given their performance. If you're willing to sacrifice headset functionality, you can get similar audio quality for $20 less with Altec Lansing's Muzx Mesh; and for $50 you can enjoy a significant step up in quality with the NuForce NE-7m. For $40, though, the Atomic Bass 2 offers strong bass; pleasant, warm sound; and headset functionality with a great microphone (macworld.com/6861).

●●●; $40; Radius; www.radiusearphones.com

Vizio VMB070 7-Inch LED LCD Portable TV ▷

Whether you're tailgating or you just live in a really small apartment, you might have a reason to want a 7-inch TV, and the Vizio VMB070 stands out. Overall, it's a solid portable TV with good image quality and battery life, but poor photo support and the display's glare and light-reflection problems mean that it isn't ideal for people who want a full-featured digital photo frame or a dedicated outdoor TV (macworld.com/6862).

●●●; $160; Vizio; www.vizio.com

SOFTWARE

BIAS SoundSaver △

SoundSaver is a handy tool that walks you step by step through the process of capturing and digitizing your old LPs and tapes. The workflow is logical, and the ability to clean up tracks as one part of the process is welcome. Just as welcome is the ability to automatically tag tracks. While many people will never have the need to encode a 78-rpm record, it's nice that BIAS included that as an option, just in case. It'd be even nicer if the auto-define feature were more accurate. But we've yet to find a perfect solution in a product in this price range (macworld.com/6863).

●●●●; $50; BIAS; bias-inc.com

iPods: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE [A]	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE [B]
iPod Classic	160GB	●●●●	$249	2.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5262
iPod Touch	8GB	●●●●½	$229	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6553
	32GB	●●●●½	$299	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6554
	64GB	●●●●½	$399	3.5-inch color (Retina)	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	6555
iPod Nano	8GB	●●●½	$149	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	6551
	16GB	●●●½	$179	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	6552
iPod Shuffle	2GB	●●●●	$49	none	15 hours of music playback	6550

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Macworld HOT STUFF

What We're Raving about This Month

New Potato Technologies TuneLink Auto

Accessory maker New Potato Technologies has introduced the TuneLink Auto, a $100 gizmo for iOS devices that lets you stream audio to your car stereo. The TuneLink Auto plugs into your car's accessory jack and interfaces with your iOS device via Bluetooth. The front of the device sports a USB port that lets you keep your device charged while you use it and a 3.5mm line-level audio output jack to transmit audio directly to your car's auxiliary audio input. If your car's stereo doesn't have an aux-in jack, don't worry: The TuneLink also has a built-in FM transmitter. You control the TuneLink Auto with a free app that lets you set the channel of the FM transmitter as well as adjust your Bluetooth settings. When a call comes in, the app automatically switches to your existing Bluetooth or wired headset, and then switches back, so you can easily take calls without taking your eyes off the road (www.newpotatotech.com).—DAVID DAHLQUIST

WebTunes

Music fans who want to marry their song libraries to the power of the Web have a new way to potentially make that union a reality: WebTunes, a program that lets you play your iTunes library through a browser. Once set up, it automatically connects to your default browser, which in turn opens iTunes and displays the artists and albums in your library—not in a grid or list, like Apple's program, but in a "cloud" formation that displays your most-played music most prominently. WebTunes also displays a Wikipedia entry for the artist you're hearing, and offers links to the artist and music through last.fm, AllMusic, Google, and the iTunes Store (www.webtunes.info).—JOEL MATHIS

iTunes Store Now Offers 90-Second Song Previews

Thirty seconds is often not enough to really get a sense of whether a song is any good. Apple has tried to rectify that problem by recently updating the iTunes Store with 90-second previews for songs that are longer than two and a half minutes. Right now, the 90-second previews are available only in the U.S. version of the store, where they are available on the desktop and on iOS devices—though not yet for all songs that would seemingly qualify (www.itunes.com).—LEX FRIEDMAN

mSpot Music

If a big fluffy cloud of bits seems like the ideal place to store your media, then mSpot might be right for you. Previously available for Android devices, mSpot has now launched an iOS client that lets you listen to music you've stored on its service. You can upload your music to mSpot's servers, either from your iTunes library or from folders that you select. You get 2GB of free space, or you can upgrade to 40GB of space if you plunk down $4 a month. Once uploaded, your music is available on mSpot's server, waiting for you to listen to it via the mSpot Music app on your iOS device (www.mspot.com).

—DAN MOREN

SLINGPLAYER MOBILE FOR iPAD

Sling Media's new iOS app lets Slingbox Solo and Pro-HD owners watch and control their home TVs and DVRs from an iPad. You can view live media from your cable or satellite connection, or stream something from your DVR, an Apple TV, or even a home security camera system. The program guide has been revamped for iOS's touch-friendly environment, and a Recent Channels feature makes it easy to get back to what you were watching. And the video quality is a lot higher than what's available on the iPhone app. The $30 SlingPlayer app for iPad works on both 3G and Wi-Fi devices (slingmedia.com).—DAVID CHARTIER

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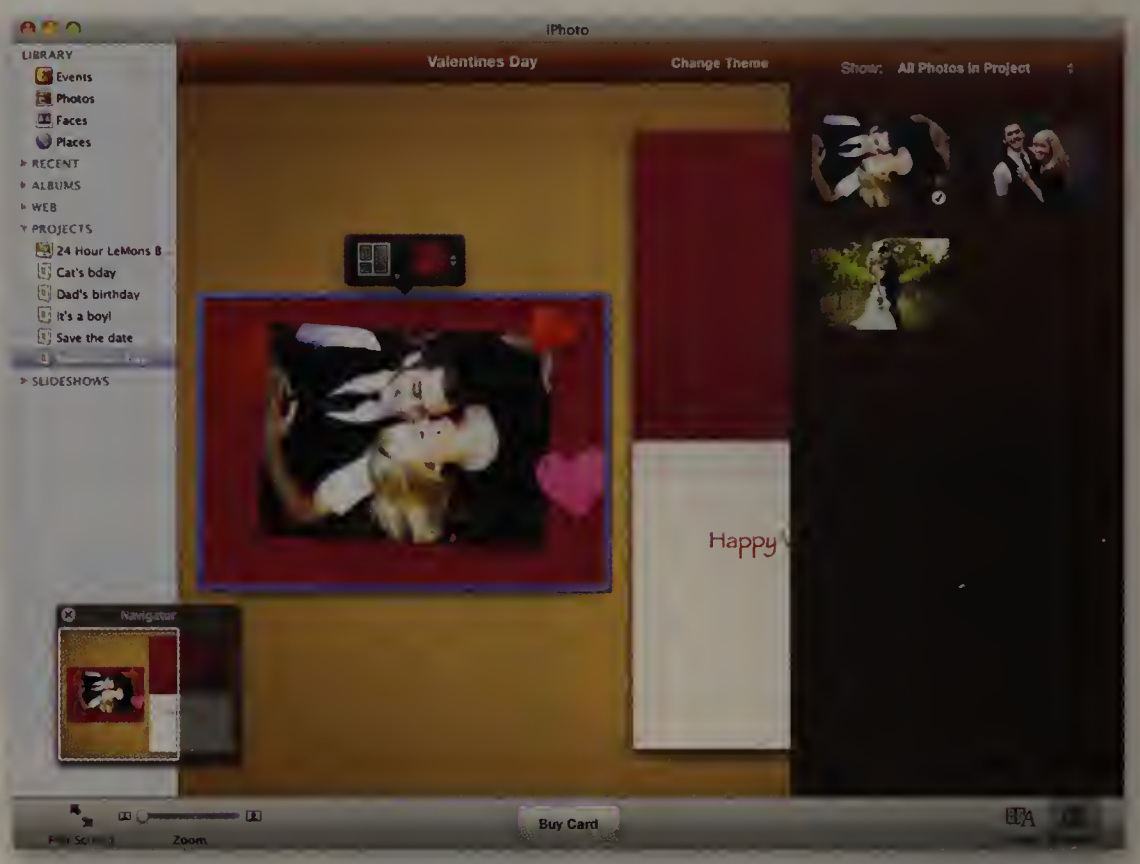
Design Great Cards with iPhoto '11

Use these tips to create amazing custom photo greeting cards

BY SERENITY CALDWELL

With iPhoto '11, you can design and create fantastic customized cards for any occasion. Here are some tips and tricks for crafting something special—without putting in hours of work.



What a Card iPhoto offers many themed card designs you can customize and get printed.

Choose a Card Type and Theme

To start a project, select an image thumbnail within your iPhoto library (you can even select multiple photos or an entire event). Click Create in the lower right corner of the screen and then select Card from the resulting pop-up menu. For good quality, your photos should be at least 180 dpi with a minimum 1300 by 928 resolution.

Choose a theme from the design carousel, which displays photo card previews sorted according to type: Folded, Flat, or Letterpress. Most folded cards measure 5 by 7, while postcards measure 4 by 6.

You can browse designs by using the arrow keys. You'll see a preview of the card and information about its dimensions, price, and alternate layouts, if there are any. Once you've found the design you want to work with, click Create to start customizing.

The design carousel displays card previews sorted by type: Folded, Flat, or Letterpress.

Design Like a Pro

In the card builder, you can change any aspect of an element by selecting it and clicking the Design button, or by adjusting settings in the pop-up menus. For special tweaks and customizations, perhaps these tips can be of service.

Remove the Apple Logo By default, Apple places its logo and/or tagline on the back of each card. You can deselect the Include Apple Logo On Back Of Card option within the Design Options panel.

Get More Control over Text With text selected, you can open the Design Options panel to change font sizes, alignment, spacing, and colors.

Find More Fonts iPhoto will initially display only preferred system fonts, but if you uncheck Show Suggested Fonts within the Design Options panel, you can gain access to your entire font library.

Swap Out Photos If your theme requires additional photos, click the Photos tab in the bottom right corner. Here, you can look at the pictures you initially selected for the project, photos you've already placed in it, photos you have yet to place, the last event you looked at, your last import, or the last 12 months' worth of photos. You can also import photos from your Library by dragging the thumbnails to the card project in the Source list.

Tweak Last-Minute Issues Want to class up your card by turning a photo black and white? Control-click (or right-click) on a placed picture to open the Design Options panel, where you can add a black-and-white, sepia, or antique filter. If you want to tweak the picture, you can click Edit Photo to enter

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY SAMUEL POTTER

edit mode. You can also move and zoom in on placed photos by clicking on them, or mirror the image by Control-clicking.

Use Photos from Web Albums It's possible to build a card with photos from your integrated Flickr, Facebook, and/or MobileMe accounts, even if the original images aren't in iPhoto. Under Web in the Source list, click the linked account you'd like to pull from and then find the thumbnail you'd like to import. If you already have a card started, you can drag that thumbnail directly on top of the project; otherwise, drag the thumbnail to your library, highlight it, and then press the Create button—you can't build a card directly from a Web photo.

Start Over Don't like what you've come up with? You can undo up to four changes, and revert your text to the default font and size in the Design Options panel. If you decide the card's theme isn't working for you, click the Change Theme button to return to the carousel. Photos you've added will stay in the project, though you'll need to lay them out again. Choose a new theme and click Apply to return to the card design page.

Show Off Your Creation in Print

Before ordering your card, make sure you're happy with the design by previewing it. You can make a PDF version by Control-clicking within the project view to bring up two menu options. The first, Save Card As PDF, will send a copy to your hard drive, whereas Preview Card will simply open it in Preview or Acrobat without saving.

When ready, you can order copies from Apple, print the card yourself, or have a local printer process the prints.

To order from Apple, click the Buy Card button while you're in the project. Enter the quantity you want, as well as your zip code and choice of shipping. Unfortunately, you can't mix and match card designs without placing separate orders.

If you decide to go with a local printer or to DIY to save on time and shipping costs, you'll need to save a PDF to your computer. For the best-quality file, choose File ▸ Print, Control-click the PDF button, and select Save As PDF to export your card.

Best Point-and-Shoots for Video

These five multitasking compact point-and-shoot cameras all shoot great 720p video

Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX5

Video quality on the DMC-LX5 is excellent when you use the camera's automated settings in bright light and manual settings in low light. The on-board mic captures crisp audio.

$500; Panasonic; macworld.com/6642

Canon PowerShot SX210 IS

The SX210 IS has some of the best video quality among the current crop of pocket megazoom cameras. But its audio is a weak spot, and the camera has no mic port.

$350; Canon; macworld.com/6330

Panasonic Lumix DMC-FX75

This camera really shines in video mode, especially in bright light. The FX75 shoots bright video with good colors. In low light, motion is smooth but not as well-defined.

$300; Panasonic; macworld.com/6771

Kodak EasyShare M580

Social networking fans will enjoy the M580, which shoots excellent video and allows you to upload directly to sites like YouTube when you sync to a computer.

$170; Kodak; macworld.com/6803

Canon PowerShot S95

A fantastic and petite still camera, the S95 doesn't disappoint in the video department. Video colors are bold, and the camera has a built-in stereo mic.

$400; Canon; macworld.com/6804

Selectively Share Your Photos

Keep your private moments from becoming public with these photo-sharing tools

BY MEGAN GEUSS

After a party, vacation, or special event, you want to share your images with friends and family. Facebook is great, but you might want more control over who sees what—if, say, you want to keep party shots between friends or baby snaps in the family. These sites and techniques let you share snapshots while still controlling your privacy.

Create Large, Private Galleries

The people at Smugmug (smugmug.com) describe the site as "Fort Knox for your photos." In lieu of actual armed guards, Smugmug offers tiers of privacy, letting you password-protect your whole site or just specific galleries. The site can also issue you a private URL so your friends and family can access it without having to enter a password. However, Google can still find and index your site unless you opt out in your privacy settings. Prices start at $40 per year for unlimited photo uploads.

Phanfare (from $99 per year; phanfare.com) is similar to SmugMug but a bit more expensive. Like SmugMug, it lets you customize galleries and upload unlimited photos and 20-minute video clips (including raw photos and video files), but with no additional cost after the yearly fee. Both sites let you create your own gallery themes and order prints.

Share Your Images Instantly

Resist the urge to live-tweet a family reunion to the world. Instead, connect just to the members of your family who can't make it over the river and through the woods, with an app called Vix Photos ($1; vixphotos.com). The app lets you create a channel where others can see updates immediately through the Vix Photos app or the Vix Photos Website. Add captions as you go, and only viewers you authorize will get to see your albums. Your photos stay private, and you don't bog down others' newsfeeds with a lot of pictures.

Put Pics on Paper

If older members of your family aren't hip to the Internet (yet), you can create an old-fashioned paper book for them.

Blurb (blurb.com) turns photos and text into a book, starting at $13 for a softcover

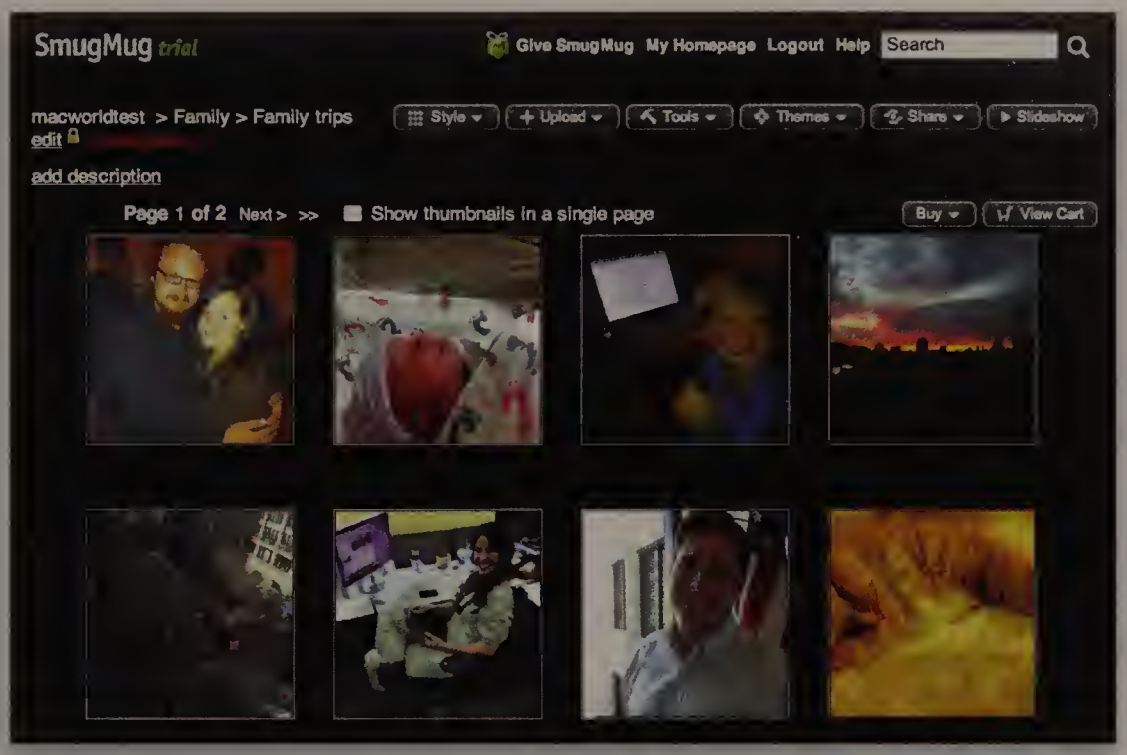
book of up to 40 pages. You can create a book in one of three ways: Upload your photos to an existing template, create customized layouts, or design your own PDFs of the pages and upload them.

If you prefer something lighter and less pricey than a book, try a magazine. HP's MagCloud (magcloud.com) is a service that helps you print and bind glossy pages for 20 cents per page. If you already share photos on Flickr, MagCloud lets you upload a photo set directly from there.

Keep It Free

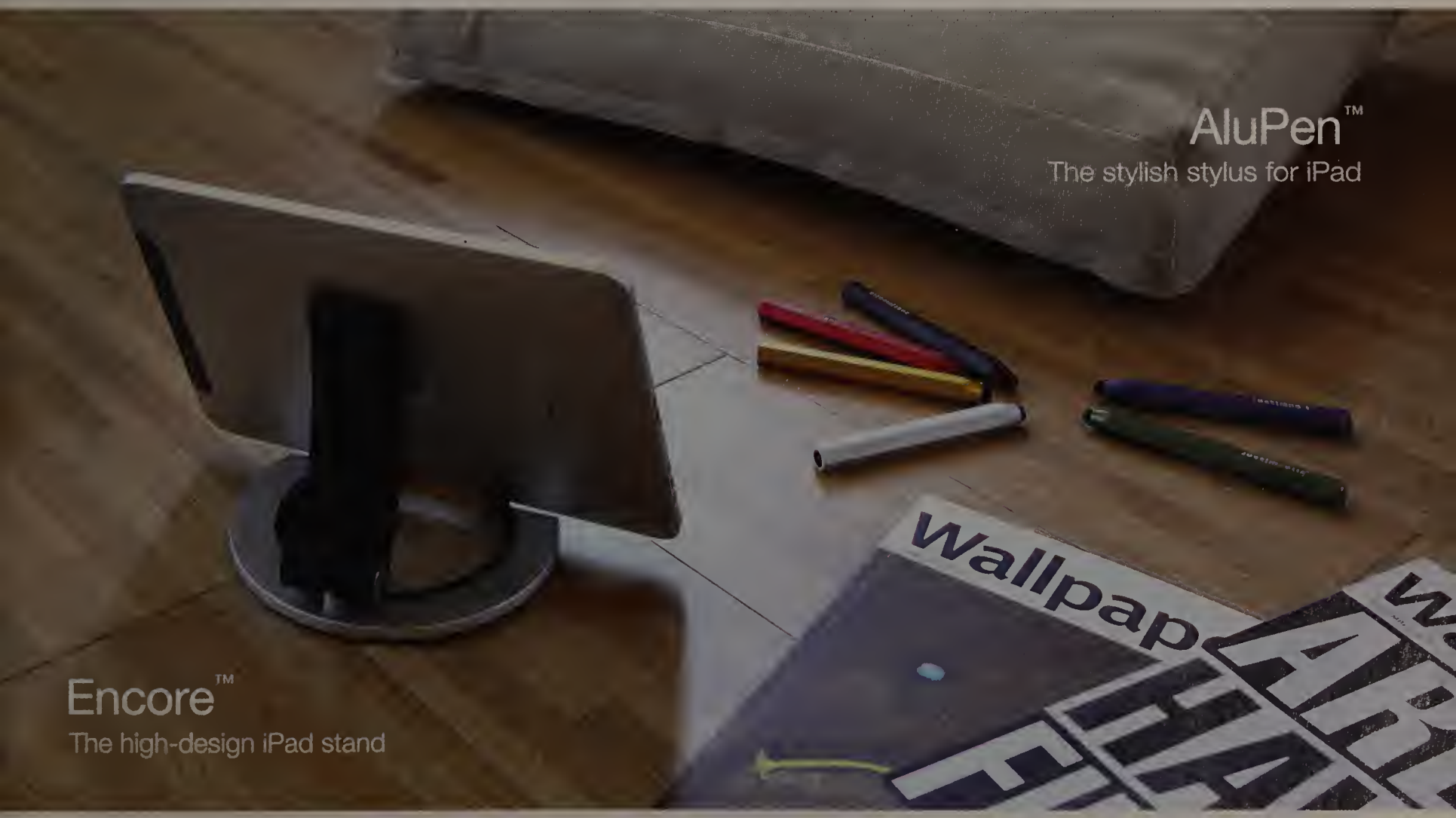
If you can handle relinquishing some control, there are plenty of free options. Though you'll have limited storage and less creative license in building galleries, Picasa (picasa.google.com), Snapfish (snapfish.com), and Flickr (flickr.com) are free at their basic levels, and all offer varying levels of privacy controls.

Privacy on these popular sites can be a concern, but reading through your settings will ease your mind. Picasa, for example, offers you an unlisted gallery URL that you can e-mail to friends. They can click on a link without entering a password every time, but the public can't see the gallery.



Private Pictures SmugMug offers some of the most extensive privacy controls for your photos.

Megan Geuss (@MeganGeuss) is a technology writer in Oakland, California.



Uncommon Camera Bags

Switch to a great case that's as interesting as your photos

BY HEATHER KELLY

Stylish Camera Bags (That Look Nothing Like Camera Bags)

Most camera bags have standard, utilitarian designs. While they do an amazing job of protecting your gear, they don't exactly make a fashion statement. Break the mold with a fashionable bag that just so happens to hold camera gear. Photographer Kelly Moore makes bags that enclose a practical, traditional camera bag inside of colorful purse and satchel designs. One of her most popular models is the Classic Bag for women (pictured; $200; kellymoorebag.com), which is indistinguishable from a regular purse at first glance. But inside is a fully padded camera bag with four sections for holding a DSLR body, up to four lenses under eight inches, and accessories. There are plenty of pockets for memory cards or car keys—two front pockets and two smaller pockets on the side. The bag is water-resistant and comes with a shoulder pad that will keep all your equipment from weighing you down.

Camera Bag for a Spy or the Just Shy

You don't have to be a P.I. to appreciate the clever Cloak ($49; photojojo.com/store) camera bag. This simple case straps in one DSLR with a lens six inches or shorter, lens side down. Once the camera is secure, you can open the bottom of the bag, slip your hands in the secret openings on each side, and start snapping photos. The water-resistant case will conceal your gear while giving you access to the important parts. Passersby won't have any idea that you're taking photographs, but they might think you're hyperventilating or looking really hard for your spare change.

Camera Bag, Messenger-Style

TimBuk2 is known for making customizable heavy-duty messenger bags. Its latest product—the Snoop Camera Messenger ($130; timbuk2.com)—is a gift to the photographers in its fan base. The external design is similar to the other messenger bags TimBuk2 makes, but inside is a modular, cushioned camera wonderland with room for a DSLR body, some lenses, an external flash, and a MacBook. The padded dividers are removable, and the bag comes in three color combinations: black and gunmetal, cement and Revlon red, or gunmetal and limeaide.

Compact Cameras Need Cases, Too

It's tempting to just drop your point-and-shoot into whatever bag you're carrying, or slip it into your jacket pocket. But when the crumbs and dirt weasel into your camera's crevices and lens, and your keys and spare change scratch up its shiny surface, you'll be sorry. Show your compact or ultracompact camera a little love, and put it in one of the handsome compact neoprene cases from Built ($12 to $16; builtny.com).

Rugged, with Built-In Stabilization

Clik Elite makes camera bags for serious outdoor and adventure photographers. Its BodyLink Telephoto Pack ($200; clikelite.com) adds a little something extra to its sturdy design—an aluminum frame that can be used to help keep your camera and lens steady while you're shooting in the field. The frame works with your body to stabilize the camera, and it has a standard mount on the top that attaches to any ballhead. The front of the bag can also be flipped down to create a mini mobile workstation.

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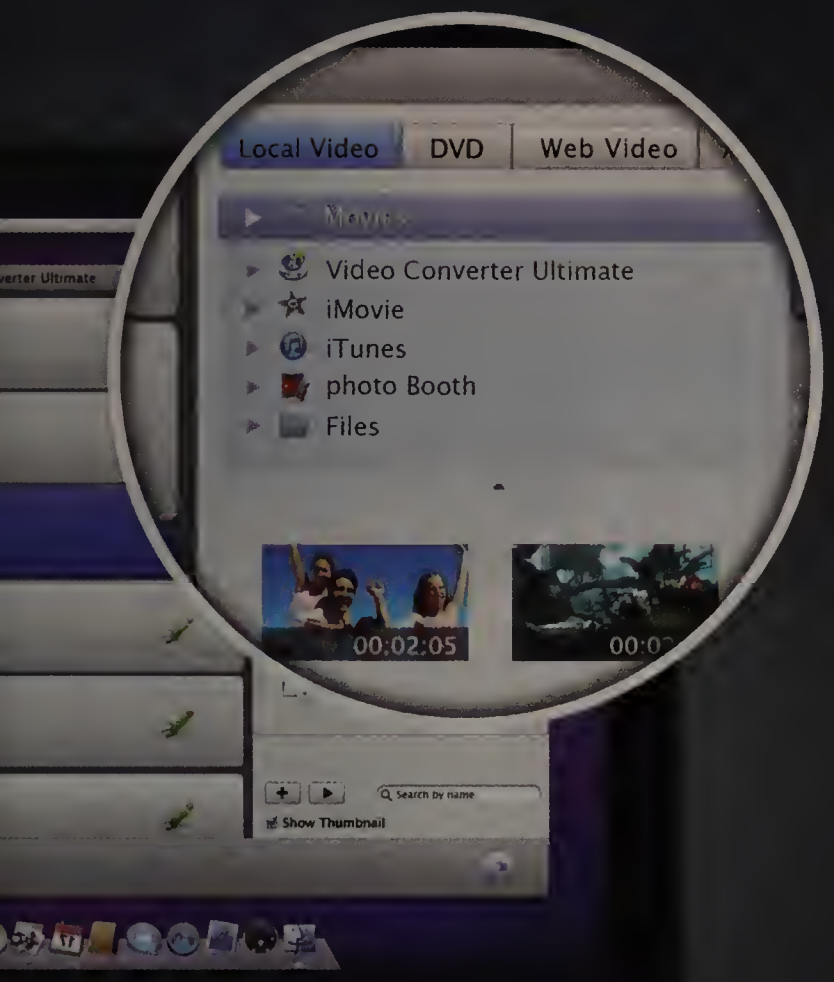

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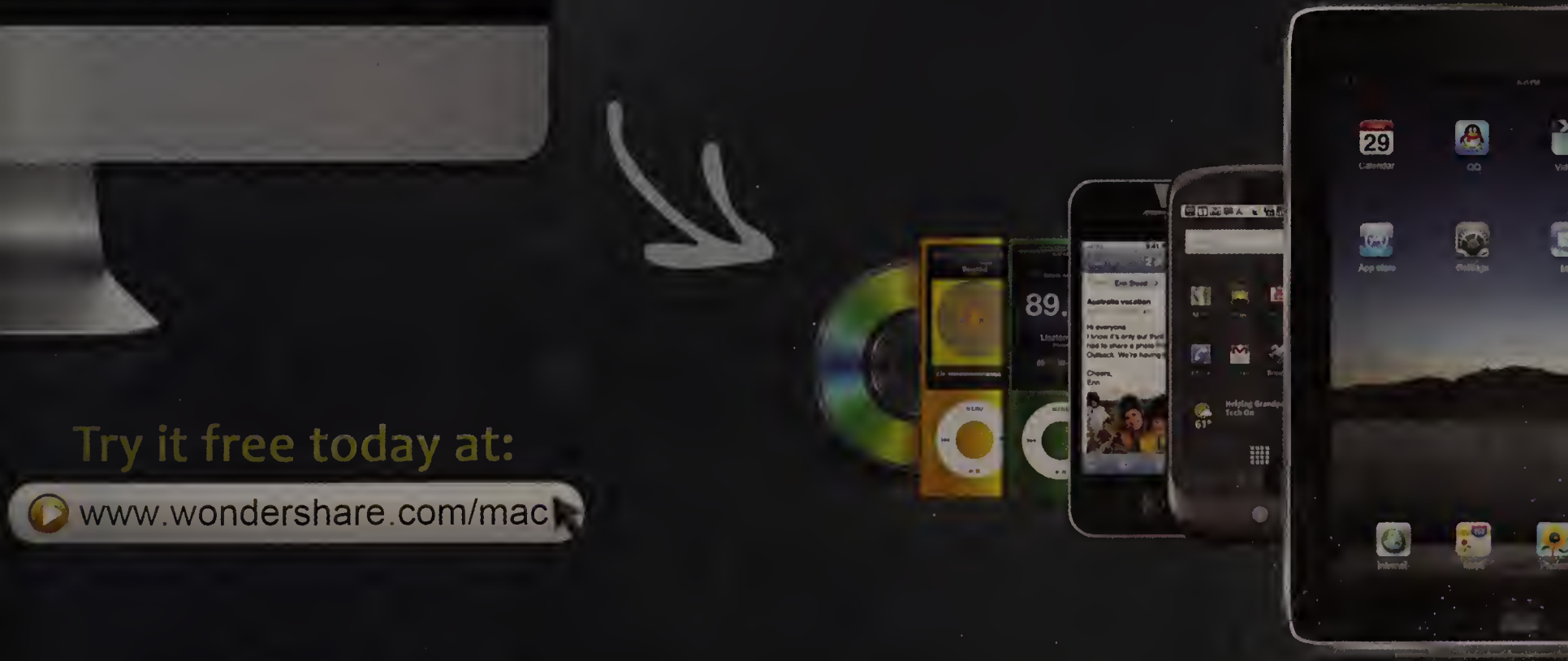

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REVIEWS

Hardware, Software, and Accessories for Making and Managing Photographs

HARDWARE

Canon EOS 60D △

The 19-megapixel EOS 60D is the latest DSLR from Canon. It's an excellent upgrade for Rebel shooters looking for more control, an articulated LCD, wireless flash, and a more substantial body. And if recording video is your thing, this DSLR is a natural choice. The EOS 60D produces excellent image quality up to ISO 1600, and very good quality at ISO 3200. Users can process raw files in-camera, and the camera ships with a bundle of good, Mac-compatible software. The camera has poor automatic white balance indoors under tungsten light, and focusing in Live View can be slow (macworld.com/6805).

●●●●½; $1100; Canon, www.usa.canon.com

Canon PowerShot SD4500 IS △

The 10X-optical-zoom Canon PowerShot SD4500 IS camera is a nice pocketable size, has easy-to-use features, and comes with fun, creative effects. It boasts great modes for high-speed shooting, making it a versatile camera for fast-action shooters (just as long as they can live with lower-resolution video and stills for high-speed shots). However, the SD4500 IS has lackluster overall image quality, poor battery life, no manual settings, and a not-very-wide-angle lens (macworld.com/6806).

●●½; $350; Canon, www.canon.com

Sony Alpha SLT-A55 ▷

The difference between the A55 and DSLRs is that Sony has placed a translucent mirror in front of the image sensor. It doesn't move, like the mirror in an SLR, and because it's mostly transparent, the bulk of the light coming through the lens passes on to the sensor. This means that the A55 continuously autofocuses in Live View mode. When shooting video, this makes for a camera that handles like a point-and-shoot, but offers the flexibility and superior image quality of an SLR. The A55 also has a nice feature set and great image quality (macworld.com/6780).

●●●●½; $750; Sony, www.sonystyle.com

Top Products YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

DIGITAL CAMERAS
SLR

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE [A]	TYPE	FIND CODE [B]
A580 (pictured) www.sonystyle.com	●●●●	$700	16.2-megapixel	6807
Alpha NEX-5 www.sonystyle.com	●●●●	$649	14.2-megapixel	6334
EOS 7D www.canon.com	●●●●	$1573	18-megapixel	6014

DIGITAL CAMERAS
Point-and-Shoot

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE [A]	TYPE	FIND CODE [B]
HZ35W (pictured) www.samsung.com	●●●●	$320	12-megapixel	6331
Lumix DMC-LX5 www.panasonic.com	●●●●	$399	10.1-megapixel	6642

PRINTERS
Inkjet

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE [A]	TYPE	FIND CODE [B]
Officejet Pro 8000 Wireless (pictured) www.hp.com	●●●●	$80	document, photo	6017
PictureMate Dash PM 260 www.epson.com	●●●●	$107	snapshot, photo	5609

[A] All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. [B] In a browser's address field, typing a find code after *macworld.com/* takes you to a product's review or overview.

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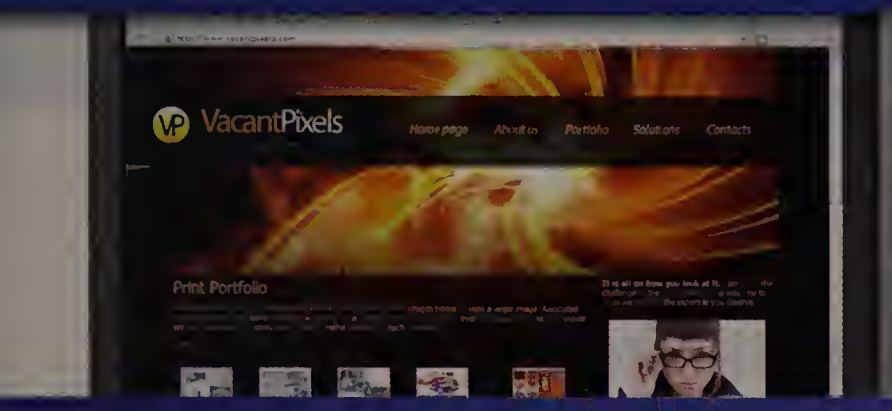

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Handwriting: A Font of Your Own

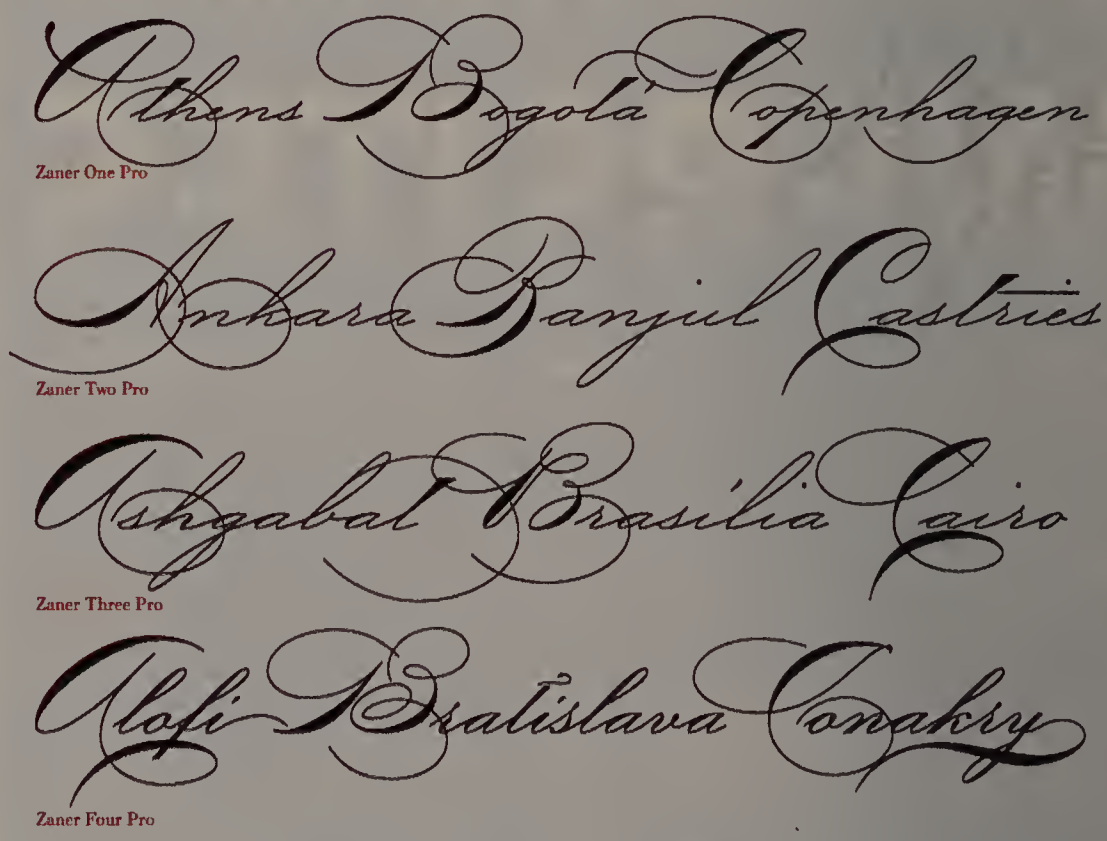
Long a Mac tradition, online font resources now give you any script you want

BY JAY NELSON

I don't particularly like my handwriting—neither did my third-grade teacher. Maybe that's why I'm attracted to professional fonts that look like handwriting. Or maybe it's because they're just plain awesome.

Fonts that resemble handwriting are as old as the Macintosh itself—the first Macs included Susan Kare's 72-dpi bitmap font Los Angeles, and Apple includes the font Lucida Handwriting in Mac OS X.

Although Lucida Handwriting doesn't look like anyone's handwriting that I know of, the characters do connect nicely. If you want a font that looks like your own handwriting, you can get that for a very reasonable price—often less than $10—online. For example, at YourFonts (www.yourfonts.com) and Fontifier (www.fontifier.com), you can simply download and print a template, fill in the boxes with your handwritten letters, then scan and upload the template. The Website lets you tweak any letters that don't look right, and then it generates a font for you. You can even include your signature as one of the characters.



Expert Swashes Using P22's Zaner Pro, anyone can match the penmanship of America's greatest penmen.

But what if, like me, you don't actually like your handwriting? The Web is full of free fonts that are based on someone else's handwriting. I've found several that I like and I use them as if they were my own. Have a look at the handwriting fonts at Free Fonts (www.free-fonts.com), FontSpace (www.fontspace.com), and Font Garden (www.fontgarden.com), for example. For more choices, use Google to search for "free handwriting fonts."

The P22 type foundry has digitized the handwriting of prominent artists, such as Cézanne, Gaugin, van Gogh, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

If you want more control and are willing to spend $30, have a look at FontLab's SigMaker (macworld.com/6795), which lets you convert your handwritten letters or any other line art into a font, or add new glyphs to an existing font.

To get a more professionally produced handwriting font, look to Chank Diesel's Go Font Yourself (macworld.com/6796), volumes 1 and 2. Each collection contains several dozen fonts based on the handwriting of real people.

You can even impersonate a famous artist. The P22 type foundry (www.p22.com) has professionally digitized the handwriting of several prominent artists, including Cézanne, Gaugin, van Gogh, Frank Lloyd Wright, and even Leonardo da Vinci.

Some fonts make use of the OpenType font format's ability to recognize surrounding letters and substitute different letter shapes (glyphs) based on context. The result is text that looks more natural because different instances of each letter don't look the same. A few good examples are Canada Type's Martie

Pro (available from several resellers), MadType's Casino Hand (macworld.com/6797), and P22's remarkable Brass Script Pro (macworld.com/6798).

If your tastes tend toward the handwriting styles you've seen in fancy greeting cards, have a look at Rob Leuschke's TypeSetIt collection (macworld.com/6799). He was formerly a typographer for Hallmark, and has imbued his font designs with the timeless grace he developed while working on that company's card designs.

For possibly the best examples of professional penmanship, see P22's Zaner Pro, an OpenType font based on the work of one of the most influential penmen in American history—Charles Paxton Zaner.

One unique feature of this font is that you can apply swashes to the end of a word by typing the tilde character (~). If you keep pressing the tilde key, you'll cycle through a range of swashes. If you need some typographic inspiration, download P22's PDF full of examples of the font's use.

Los Angeles 24 pt

Los Angeles 12 pt

City Script The first Macs included Susan Kare's 72-dpi bitmap font Los Angeles.

I believe that every person has at least one good font design inside them. Perhaps the abundance of handwriting fonts is evidence of this belief. Or not. Regardless, it can be hugely entertaining to flip through a collection of handwritten fonts and imagine what kind of person was responsible for each one. Plus, you might find one that shows people a better version of you.

Jay J. Nelson is the editor and publisher of *Design Tools Monthly*, an executive summary of graphic design news.

Leave the Ken Burns Effect on the Cutting Room Floor

Every imported photo in Apple's iMovie mobile app gets the Ken Burns treatment—an effect where the virtual camera moves across a photo and slowly zooms in or out. But you may not always desire that effect; having a button to turn it off would be helpful, but such a thing doesn't (yet) exist.

But you can achieve the same thing by setting the Start and End stages so that they have the same position and zoom level.

1. Double-tap an imported photo to bring up the Ken Burns controls.

2. Tap the Start button to position the playhead at the beginning of the photo clip.

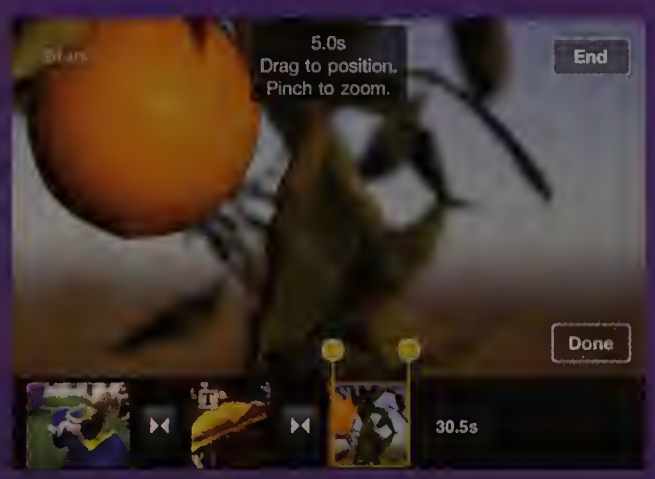
3. With two fingers, pinch inward until the photo is smaller than iMovie's preview area, and then release. The image will snap to fit the frame.

4. Drag up or down with one finger so that the top or bottom border is visible, and then release to again snap the image to fit.

5. Tap the End button and repeat steps 3 and 4.

6. Tap Done, and play the movie to make sure the photo doesn't move.

—JEFF CARLSON



Switch It Off The Ken Burns Effect controls let you set the start and end points of the clip, but don't offer an easy way to remove the effect.

Build Greeting Cards with Photo Blocks

BY LESA SNIDER

Go Macro With macro photography, even ordinary items can look professionally shot.

Designing your own greeting cards lets you send fun, creative, and personal messages to friends and family. Armed with your Mac and a digital camera, you have endless possibilities! Start with a 5-by-7-inch document. Then, using Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, or another image editor, set the resolution to 250 pixels per inch. Keep text and important parts of the message a quarter-inch away from the edge to avoid unintentional cropping.

For this block-style card (pictured), take six photos using the macro (close-up) setting on your camera. These can be decorative items, flowers, people, or pets.

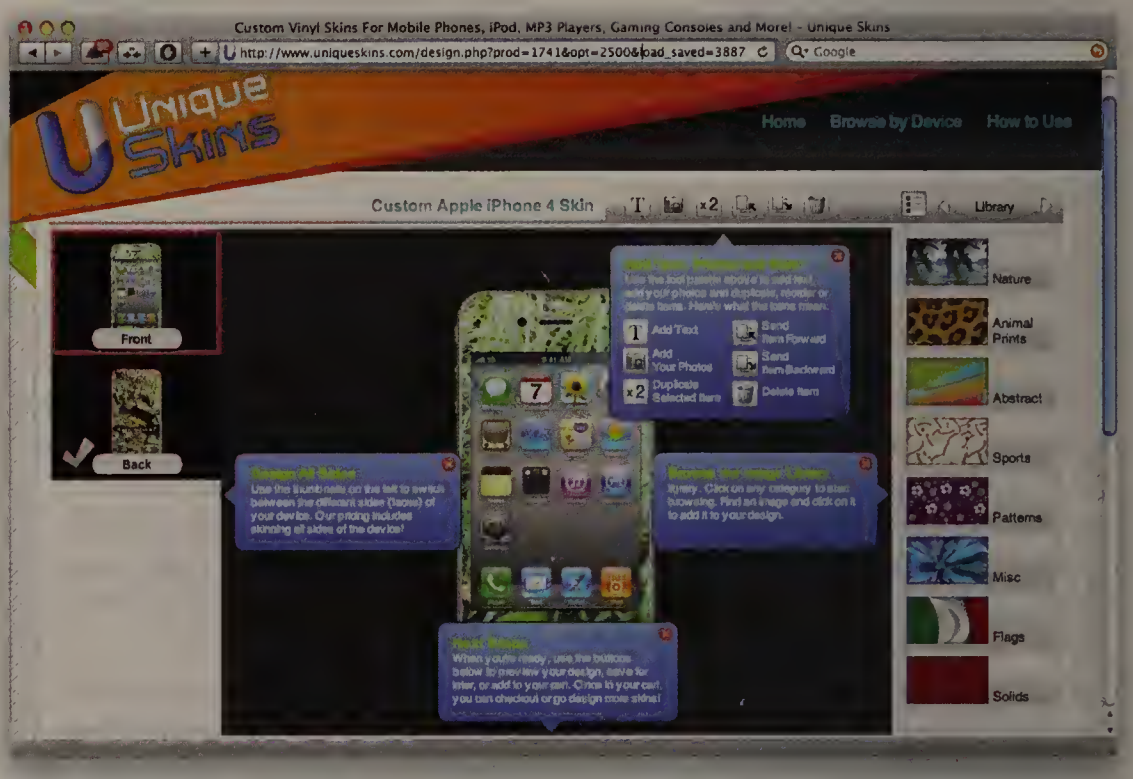
In your photo editor, add the photos to your document via copy and paste (or by selecting File ▸ Place in Photoshop), and then arrange them side-by-side in two rows of three. Make sure your images are properly cropped and sized before you arrange them. If your program has guides, use them to help with alignment.

Add a short text greeting atop the photos and center it vertically and horizontally. Use a script typeface in a large point size with a drop shadow to increase readability. If you're printing at home, choose a borderless setting so that your printer knows to print all the way to the paper's edge.

Roll Your Own iPhone Skins

BY ADAM BERENSTAIN

With its flat glass front and back, the iPhone 4 isn't just a gorgeous piece of hardware, it's also a canvas for your creativity. Thanks to the design tools at Unique Skins (www.uniqueskins.com), you can create a full-color custom iPhone 4 skin.



Skin Your Phone Unique Skins' on-screen help and handy iPhone template take the guesswork out of designing skins.

Front

For the front, consider a pattern or a landscape that has some detail around the edges, since the phone screen will severely cut off faces. For the back, almost any photo will suffice.

In the Finder, select File ▸ New Folder. Choose your images in iPhoto (or elsewhere on your Mac), and then drag them into your new Finder folder. From there, they will be uploaded to the Unique Skins Website, where you can resize them to fit your iPhone.

Back

Go to the Devices section on the Unique Skins Website, and choose Cell Phones. On the resulting page, click the Apple logo, and from there choose Custom Apple iPhone 4 Skin. You can pick a two-piece adhesive vinyl skin (one piece for the front and one for the back). Options include a basic skin for $7, a scratch-resistant skin for $20, and a gel skin with a raised surface for $30. I chose the basic skin.

Pick a style, and click the Design Now button. This launches the design workspace in a new window. There you can upload images, resize and rotate them, layer one picture over another, and add text in various colors and fonts. A sidebar also offers an extensive library of stock images.

Despite the workspace's non-Mac interface, it's easy to get started thanks to intuitive tools and optional help balloons. Templates showing everything from the iPhone 4's outer edges to the location of its camera lens and flash let you see how your final design will appear on the device.

To save a work in progress, click Save For Later and create a Unique Skins account with your e-mail address and a password. You can finish your work on any computer that has Web access. Of course, the account is also required at checkout when you submit a finished skin for processing. Your design is then printed on a skin and shipped to your door, ready to peel and apply. I chose standard shipping and received my skin in less than a week. Priority and express shipping are also available.

Apply Skin

First, clean both sides of the iPhone with a lint-free cloth to ensure good contact between the glass and your skin's adhesive. Next, remove the pre-cut sections of the skin covering the Home button, camera, flash, and sensors. Aligning these holes with their respective features on the iPhone 4 is a little tricky, so try to apply the back skin first: With only two holes, it's much simpler than the front skin. If you make a mistake, you can remove and reapply both skins without much fuss—just take care not to stretch the skin or touch the adhesive side too much.

Once you've correctly positioned the skin around your phone's landmarks, slowly smooth the rest of it into place. It should be a perfect fit, but you can make adjustments as you go. Because skins leave no residue behind when removed, it's easy to experiment with different designs—just peel off the current skin and apply a new one.

If you're looking to protect your iPhone 4's screen from scratches, however, consider a different solution. Though my skin adds almost no bulk to my phone and feels tough enough to protect the back from objects in my pockets, the skin leaves the screen completely unprotected.

Huge Variety

While I tried Unique Skins on the latest iPhone, you can use this service to skin almost any iPhone model. Unique Skins also lets you design decorative covers for other electronic devices, from the MacBook Air to the Nintendo Wii.

Adam Berenstain is a freelance writer in upstate New York.

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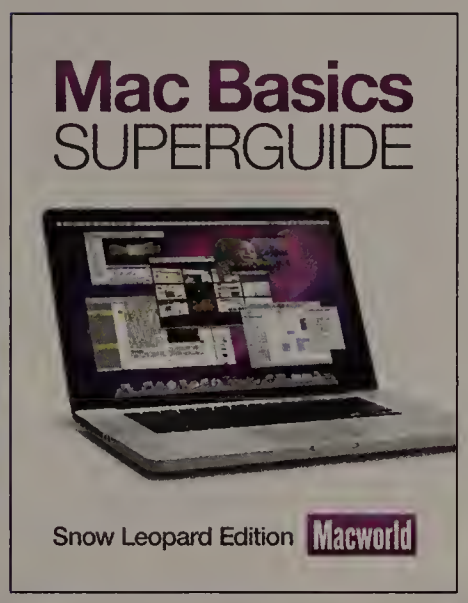
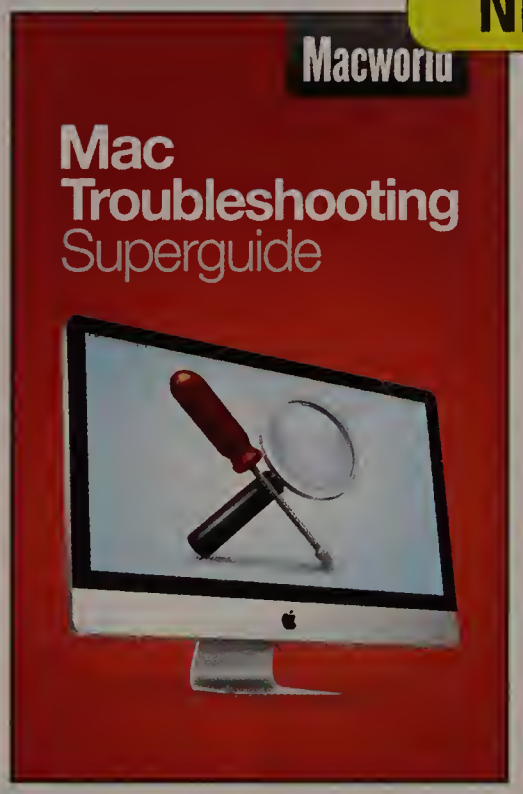
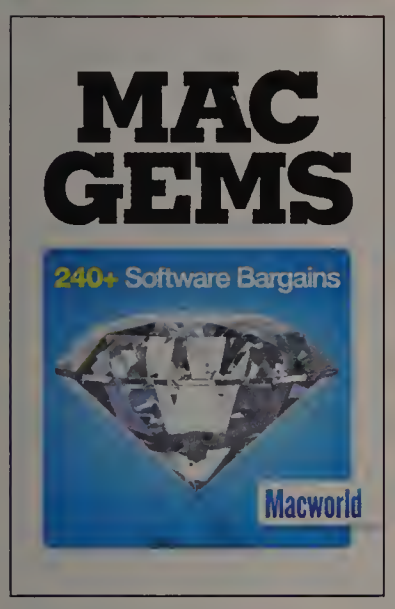
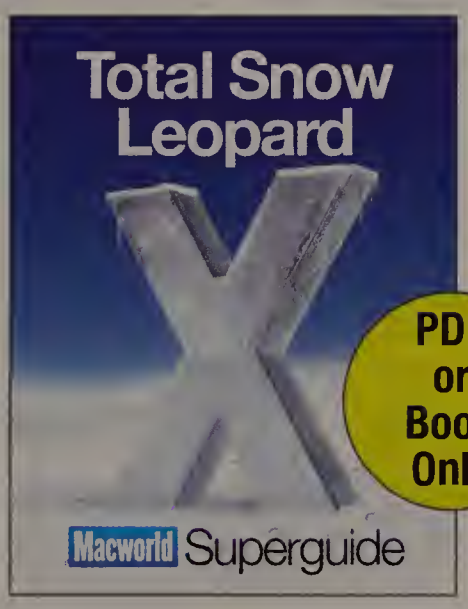


NEW!







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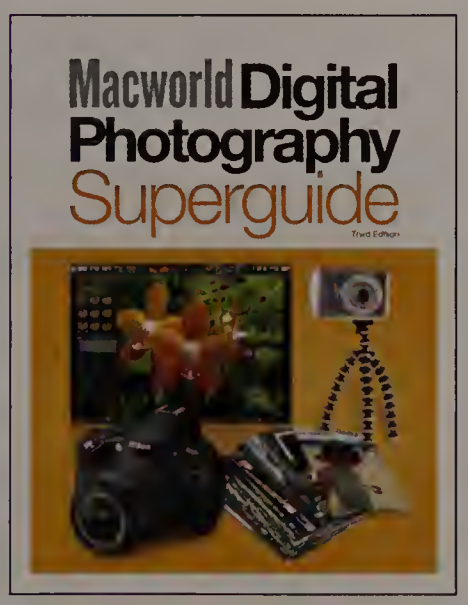

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REVIEWS

Hardware, Software, and Accessories for Your Creative Endeavors

HARDWARE

HD Hero ▷

The HD Hero is a tiny camera designed mainly for shooting HD video—1080p at 24 frames per second or 720p at 60 fps for high-speed subjects or buttery smooth slo-mo in editing, and 5-megapixel stills in adverse conditions. It comes with an underwater housing and various bits for attaching it to almost anything. But what really sets the camera apart is what it can do on the cheap—like shoot at 180 feet underwater, and while moving at over 100 mph. The HD Hero is for people who are willing to invest a little extra time to get shots that would otherwise be too expensive or risky to capture. It's for sports enthusiasts whose hobbies include not just the activity, but also sitting at a computer messing with the images and footage gathered during a session. The HD Hero will be a godsend to advanced amateurs and professionals who don't want to risk trashing an expensive camera or camcorder. While it requires some compromises, it's a great deal for the price (macworld.com/6801).

●●●●; $299; GoPro, www.goprocamera.com

Zoom H1 Handy Recorder ▷

The Zoom H1 is for podcasters, broadcasters, reporters, and musicians who want a reasonably priced, good-quality handheld recorder. The unit includes up to 24-bit/96kHz WAV and 320 kbps MP3 recording, built-in X/Y mic placement for stereo, external-mic/line-in input, headphone/line-out output, up to 32GB of storage on microSDHC cards, reasonably intuitive controls, power from a single AA battery, and a compact design. With its plastic case, it should be handled with care. The Auto Level feature needs work, but you can easily switch it off and manually set levels. Do so, and you can record some impressive-sounding audio (macworld.com/6800).

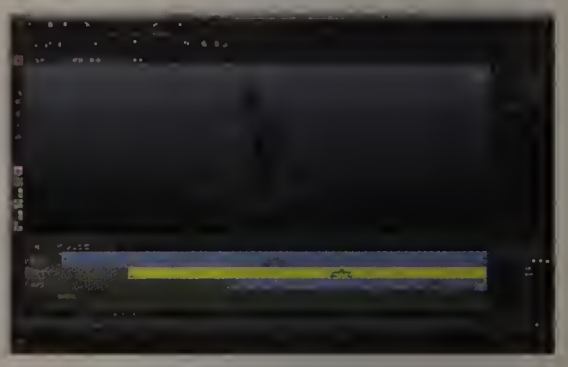
●●●●; $160; Samson, www.samsontech.com

SOFTWARE

Fontographer 5

For font creation and enhancement, Fontographer is a must. Version 5 maintains the program's user-friendly interface while replacing its older font-generating engine with the one from FontLab's high-end FontLab Studio. It also supports the latest font technologies, including OpenType. Besides providing all the tools necessary to create a font from scratch, it also has helpful tools for graphic design studios (macworld.com/6808).

●●●●½; $399; FontLab, www.fontlab.com



Maya 2011 △

Maya 2011 is the cream of the crop of 3D animation programs. While the learning curve might be daunting, the new features and improvements to existing tools make this the ultimate software choice for any serious animator. Maya 2011's modeling and animation tools are great, and its dynamics, particles, special effects, and custom programming place it several steps above other programs in its class. Considering what such programmatic muscle used to cost, the price tag is quite reasonable (macworld.com/6802).

●●●●●; $3495; Autodesk, www.autodesk.com

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Desktop and Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
d2 DVD±RW w/LightScribe www.lacie.com	●●●●	$96	desktop	3900
MediaStation 8X External Blu-ray Writer (pictured) www.buffalotech.com	●●●●	$242	Blu-ray	5344

CAMCORDERS
High Definition

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE[A]	TYPE	FIND CODE[B]
Flip MinoHD (120 Minutes) (pictured) www.theflip.com	●●●●½	$119	mini camcorder	5512
Vixia HF M32 www.canon.com	●●●●	$575	AVCHD/ MPEG-4	6848

[A] All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. [B] In a browser's address field, typing a find code after *macworld.com/* takes you to a product's review or overview.

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Mac OS X Hints

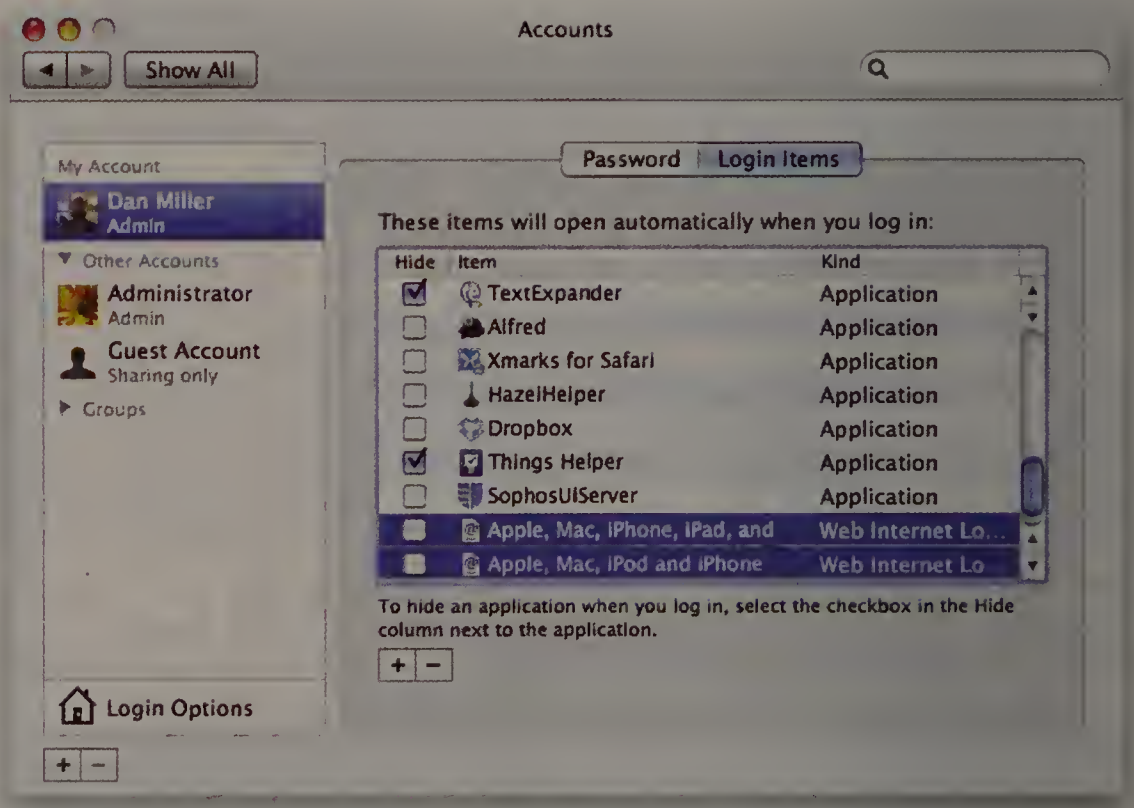
The insider tips you won't get from Apple

BY MACWORLD STAFF

Open Websites at Login

You probably know that you can drag a link from your browser to your desktop, creating a .webloc file, to make it easy to access a site in the future. But you can also use .webloc files to open such sites automatically whenever you log in.

To do so, create the .webloc file by opening the site in your browser and then dragging the icon next to the URL in the address bar to the desktop. Next, go to the Accounts system preference. Select your user account in the left column, click the Login Items tab on the right, and drag the .webloc file(s) into the Login Items list. The next time you log in, those sites will open automatically in your default browser.



Launch Websites If you add .webloc files to your list of login items, the associated Websites will launch automatically whenever you open your user account.

Add Local Links in Numbers

Numbers has at least one disadvantage compared to Microsoft Excel: It won't let you insert hyperlinks to local files in a spreadsheet. But there is a workaround that lets you add such links by taking advantage of OS X's built-in Web server.

To implement it, first go to the Sharing system preference and put a checkmark next to Web Sharing. To make sure that change has taken effect, open your browser and type `localhost` in the address box. An Apache message should appear confirming that your local Web server is functioning.

That done, move the files you want to link to and place them in the /Library/WebServer/Documents folder. If you'd rather keep your documents in their original locations, you can create aliases to them and place those aliases in that folder instead.

To insert a link to one of these files in a Numbers spreadsheet, highlight an entry in a cell and then open the Hyperlink pane of the Inspector. There, select the Enable Hyperlink checkbox and, in the Link To box, type `http://localhost/filename`, where *`filename`* is the name of the file, with extension, that you want to link to. The highlighted portion of the cell should now become a live link to that file.

Find Special Characters in Pages

In Microsoft Word, if you want to search for Returns or Tabs in a document, you can do so by inserting a `^p` (Return) or a `^t` (Tab). But in Pages, the official way to do the same thing is to select those characters from the Find dialog box's Advanced tab. If you tried to press the actual Tab key in the search field, you'd just move the cursor to the next field; if you typed an actual Return, you'd activate the Next button.

But it turns out that you can in fact insert those characters in a Pages search field from the keyboard: To search for a Return, enter Option-Return in the search field; to look for a Tab, enter

Have a Hint to Share?

Navigate to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This column was based on tips from Nathan Greenstein, Meitar Moscovitz, Mark Zabel, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.

MUG PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER; ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

Option-Tab. Remember, also, that for those and other special characters, you can always select an example of the character in the body text and then copy and paste it into a search field.

Save Text of Mail Messages

If you want to save the text of multiple messages in Mail, you can select them and then select File ▸ Save As. The familiar dialog box will appear, where you can specify a name and location. By default, the messages will be saved in Rich Text Format; you can also opt to save them as plain text or as Raw Message Source.

The only problem with that technique is that it saves *all* of the messages' contents, including the headers. If you'd rather save just the text, a tipster on hints.macworld.com came up with an AppleScript to do the job.

To implement this fix, open AppleScript Editor and enter the script in the box at right ("Save Text of Selected Messages"). (Or, if you'd rather not do all that typing, you can just go to macworld.com/6809 and copy and paste the script from there.) However you acquire it, the script needs to be saved to /Library/Scripts/Applications/Mail Scripts and given a name ('Save Text of Selected Messages,' say).

To use the script, first make sure the AppleScript icon is showing in your menu bar; if it isn't, open the General tab in AppleScript Editor's preferences and enable the Show Script Menu In Menu Bar option.

Next, open Mail and select the messages you want to save. Then open the AppleScript menu from the menu bar and select your new script from the Mail Scripts submenu. TextEdit should then open a new document containing the text of the selected messages—*just* the text of those messages, without the headers.

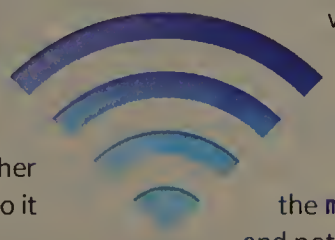
SAVE TEXT OF SELECTED MESSAGES

```
tell application "Mail"
  set selectedMessages to selection
  if (count of selectedMessages) is equal to 0 then
    display alert "No Messages Selected" message "Select
the messages you want to save."
  end if
  set theText to ""
  repeat with theMessage in selectedMessages
    set theText to theText & (content of theMessage) as
string
  end repeat
end tell
on replaceText(find, replace, subject) -- from MacScripter
  set prevTIDs to text item delimiters of AppleScript
  set text item delimiters of AppleScript to find
  set subject to text items of subject
  set text item delimiters of AppleScript to replace
  set subject to "" & subject
  set text item delimiters of AppleScript to prevTIDs
  return subject
end replaceText
set theText to replaceText("Begin forwarded message:", "",
theText)
tell application "TextEdit"
  set theDocument to make new document
  set text of theDocument to theText
end tell
```

POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Check Out AirPort Traffic

OS X comes with a little-known tool—**airport**—that can provide all sorts of information about nearby Wi-Fi networks. To invoke it, you could enter its full path (**/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/Apple80211.framework/Versions/Current/Resources/airport**, in Snow Leopard). If you'd rather not type all that out, you could create a symbolic link to it and put that link somewhere convenient.



If you enter just the **airport** command at the Terminal's command line, you'll get a **man** file in return. That file explains the switches you need to add to make the command do its stuff. For example, you can print a list of the Wi-Fi networks within range of your computer by entering **airport en1 scan**. That will produce a list of local networks, including the channel and kind of security they're using.

There are plenty of other tools available; just check the **man** file. Note that some of those tools are powerful and potentially dangerous; one lets you capture packets from nearby wireless networks. Consider that a reminder to enable the strongest possible encryption on your own wireless connections: Somebody near you could be using **airport**, too.

Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

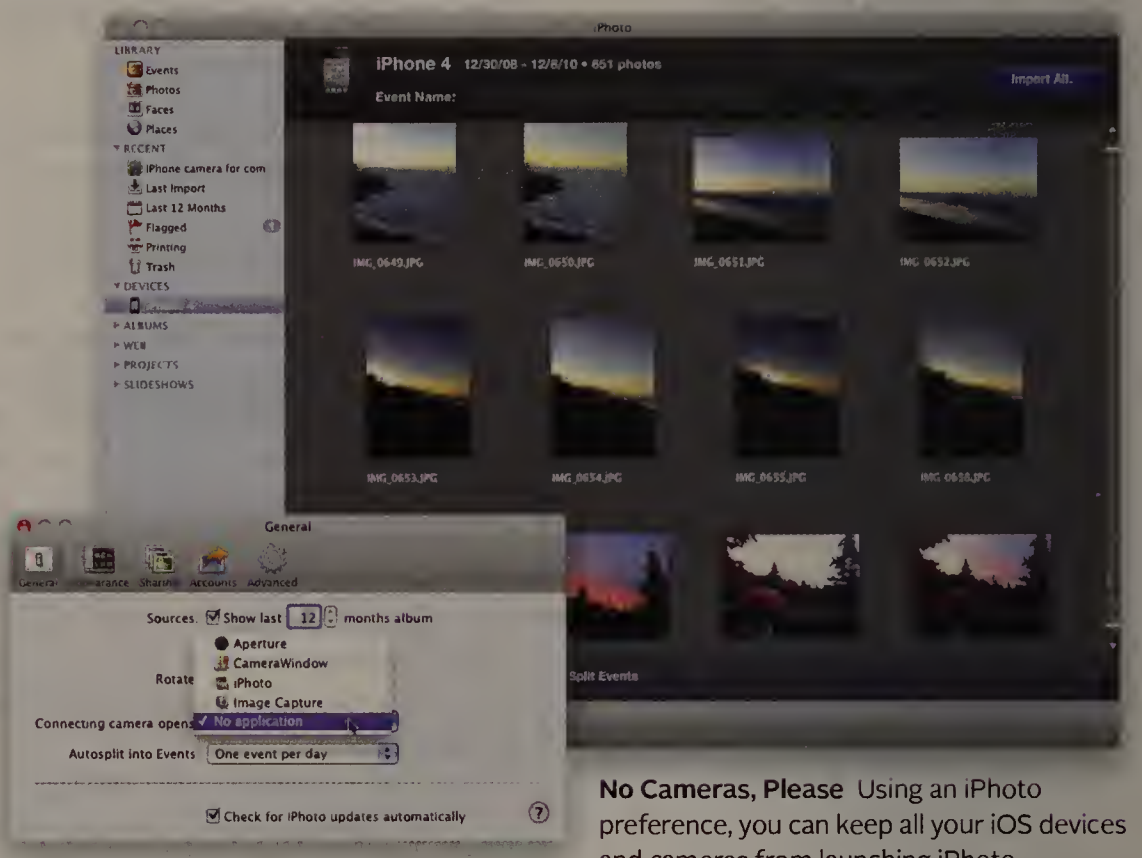
End iPod Autoplay

Q: I have a Mac and also a PC (running Windows 7), and while I like the Mac better, the one thing the two computers have in common is that they automatically do things I'd prefer them not to do when I plug in my iPod touch. The PC shows the AutoPlay window, and the Mac launches iPhoto. Is there a way to stop this behavior?

Ryan Cassidy

A: My mother didn't raise me to offer Windows advice, but I'll make an exception in this case because we're talking about an Apple device. As you've noted, when you jack your iPod into your PC, the AutoPlay window appears. At the bottom of that window is a link that reads, View More AutoPlay Options In Control Panel. Click that link. In the resulting AutoPlay control panel window, you'll see a long list of choices. Scroll down the list, and you should see your iPod touch at the bottom (if you don't, unplug it from your PC and plug it back in). From the pop-up menu next to the iPod touch listing, choose Take No Action and click the window's Save button. From this point forward, you shouldn't see the AutoPlay window when you plug in your iPod.

As for iPhoto on the Mac, you have a couple of options. The first is to open iPhoto's Preferences, select General, and, from the Connecting Camera Opens pop-up menu, choose No Application (see "No Cameras, Please").



No Cameras, Please Using an iPhoto preference, you can keep all your iOS devices and cameras from launching iPhoto.

Have a Problem?

Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.

iPhoto considers your iPod touch to be a camera, and that's why it launches. The problem with choosing this option is that you've now disabled the setting to open iPhoto when you attach any camera—your point-and-shoot or DSLR, for example.

To work around this limitation, plug in your iPod and launch Image Capture (in /Applications). Select the iPod in Image Capture's Devices list, and at the bottom of this list choose No Application from the Connecting This iPod Opens pop-up menu. This allows you to configure iPhoto's behavior for individual "cameras" such as your iPod. Now, when you plug in your iPod, iPhoto butts out. But when you plug in your real camera, iPhoto leaps to the fore.

Export and Import Outlook 2011 Messages

Q: I'm using Microsoft Outlook 2011 on my laptop and iMac. I'd like to move a week's worth of messages from one to the other, but there doesn't seem to be any easy way. What's the secret?

Via the Internet

A: With Entourage you could drag a folder with a week's worth of messages to the desktop to turn it into an MBOX file—a file format supported by just about every e-mail client on Earth save, regrettably, Outlook 2011. Instead, when you choose Outlook's File ▸ Export command, you're offered the single option to export mail in the Outlook For Mac Data File (.olm) format. And—just as regrettably—you have to export all your mail. There's no option that will let you export a range of mail or a single mailbox.

The solution is to create an empty folder on the desktop for the messages you want to export. Select those messages in Outlook and drag them to this folder. Each message appears as a .eml file. Now transfer this folder full of messages to your other Mac.

If you double-click on one of these .eml files, Apple's Mail will likely open to a preview of the message. Unfortunately, you won't be able to drag the files into Outlook in this condition. Reader Kyle DeMilo explains why: You must first change the files' application association. You do this by selecting one of the exported .eml files, pressing ⌘-I to produce the file's Info window, choosing Microsoft Outlook from the Open With pop-up menu in the Info window, and finally clicking the Change All button. You can now select all of these messages and drag them into Outlook, where they'll appear, complete with any attachments.

Delete a Boot Camp Partition

Q: I moved from a Windows PC to an iMac three years ago. For the transition I installed Boot Camp and set up 250GB of my drive for Windows. I no longer need the Windows partition. How do I delete it?

Via the Internet

A: Dispatching a Boot Camp partition is quite easy. Make sure that no user accounts other than your regular administrator account are logged on. Also, if you want any of the data that's stored on the Boot Camp partition, now's the time to back it up. (Time Machine doesn't back up Boot Camp partitions.)

Launch Boot Camp Assistant (found in /Applications/Utilities), click the Continue button in the first screen, select the Create Or Remove A Windows Partition option in the next screen, click Continue again, select the drive that has your Boot Camp partition, enable the Restore Disk To A Single Mac OS Partition option, and click Continue. You'll be prompted for your administrator username and password. Click OK and Boot Camp Assistant will restore the disk to a single Mac OS partition.

Use an iMac as a Second Monitor

Q: My wife is running an old iMac G5, and we'd like to move her to a MacBook Air. She sees my setup with a laptop and second monitor and wants to know if she can use her iMac as a second monitor.

David Camp

A: In a way, yes, but you don't do this by simply stringing a video cable between the two Macs. Rather, you use Patrick Stein's $30 ScreenRecycler (www.screenrecycler.com), a VNC (Virtual Network Computing) tool that uses your network to place the image of one Mac's display on the other's display.

With the Macs on the same network, install ScreenRecycler on the MacBook Air (the Mac you want to project to the other Mac). After installing the required driver and restarting the MacBook Air, launch ScreenRecycler. On the iMac (the Mac you'll use as the display), launch a VNC client (a trial copy of Stein's $40 JollyFastVNC is included with ScreenRecycler). The two Macs should automatically connect over Bonjour.

Open the MacBook Air's Displays system preference. You should see two monitors represented—the MacBook Air's display and the ScreenRecycler display (which appears within the VNC client window on the iMac). You can now arrange the position of these displays by dragging the second one into the proper position (to the right of the main display if the iMac sits to the right of the MacBook Air, for example). It's likely that you'll also have to adjust the resolution of the ScreenRecycler display. You do this within the Scr.Recycler1 window that

Bugs & Fixes BY TED LANDAU

iOS Device Not Recognized After a recent restart of your Mac, you connect an iOS device to iTunes, yet it doesn't appear in iTunes' Devices list. An error message may appear stating that iTunes cannot "recognize" the device.

The most likely permanent fix to this problem is to delete a file named com.apple.usbmuxd.plist~orig, located in the /System/Library/LaunchDaemons folder. Be sure not to delete the similarly named com.apple.usbmuxd.plist file. If you can't locate the ~orig variant of the usbmuxd file, your symptom presumably has a different cause. Time to look elsewhere.

If you find the file but deleting it doesn't eliminate the symptom, an Apple support article (support.apple.com/kb/TS3540) suggests deleting certain additional mobile-device–related System files. Afterward, restart your Mac and reinstall iTunes. iTunes should at last recognize your iOS device.

Revisiting the Insomniac Mac Recently, whenever I put my Mac Pro to sleep, it would immediately reawaken. Selecting the Sleep command a second time did the trick. The cause was the Wake For Network Access option, as enabled from the Energy Saver system preference. Disabling this option eliminated the symptom.

Regrettably, the Wake symptom mysteriously returned, but why? The culprit was LogMeIn. I had installed this software around the same time that the symptom first reappeared. This isn't a bug, however. Because the software is designed to permit remote access to your Mac, it makes sense that LogMeIn would prefer Wake For Network Access to be enabled. That way, if a remote device attempted to access the Mac when it was asleep—the Mac could wake up. LogMeIn's Advanced Preferences contains an Enable Wake On LAN option, which forces Wake For Network Access in Energy Saver to be reenabled on restart. The LogMeIn option is turned on by default. After I unchecked the LogMeIn option, and turned off the Energy Saver preference, my wake-immediately-after-sleep problem was once again gone.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.

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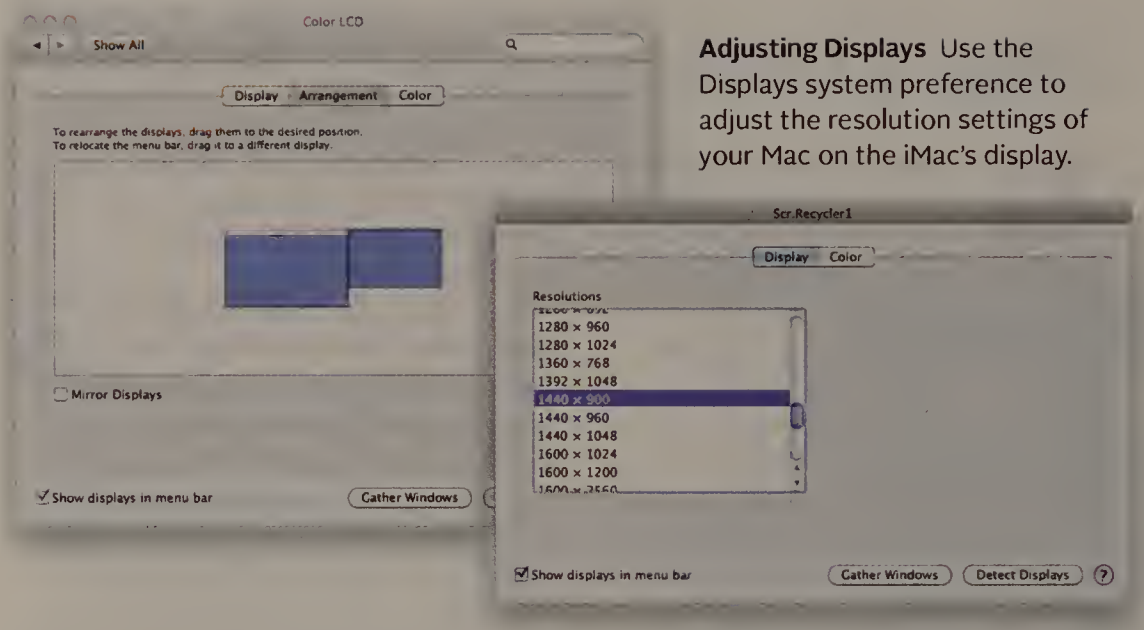

Adjusting Displays Use the Displays system preference to adjust the resolution settings of your Mac on the iMac's display.

appears on the MacBook Air's screen (see "Adjusting Displays").

Performance isn't great, as there's a lag between one computer and another—how brutal a lag depends on your network speed. The lag will produce artifacts on the iMac's display when you move objects on its screen. For this reason, I'd maintain the MacBook Air's screen for objects that move a lot—say, windows that display movies or that you use for photo editing. The iMac can work as a place to throw program palettes or documents you want to read rather than extensively work with. The alternative, of course, is to purchase an inexpensive second monitor. You'll be happier with the results.

AirPort and the Stubborn Cable Modem

Q: I bought my parents an AirPort Extreme base station, because the cheap wireless router they use doesn't broadcast a signal strong enough to reach the back bedroom. I've connected it to their cable modem, run AirPort Utility on my MacBook, and asked it to configure the base station for a DHCP connection, but it always comes up with a self-assigned IP address. When I reconnect the old wireless router, it works perfectly. What am I doing wrong?

James Fillian

A: You have to reset the cable modem. How you go about it depends on the modem. In some cases you can simply unplug it, let it sit for a few minutes, plug its output into the

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base station's WAN port, power on the modem, power on the base station, and then run AirPort Utility. With luck, the base station will pick up a usable IP address and be on its way.

However, some cable modems are reluctant to reset themselves this easily. They carry a backup battery that maintains the modem's settings even when it's unplugged. If your parents' cable modem has such a battery, there's a more-than-reasonable chance it also has a small reset button on the back. Flip it around and look for that button. If and when you find it, give it a firm push (you'll probably need a paper clip or pen-point, as these buttons are often recessed). This should allow the base station to pull in a working address.

If not, cable providers are often capable of resetting modems from their end. If nothing else works, call the provider's tech support line and ask that they reset the modem.

MAC 101

When Permissions Won't Be Repaired

Q: I have a Mac Pro running version 10.6.5 of Snow Leopard. When I repair permissions, about a dozen items are listed as repaired. But if I repeat the process, either immediately or a day later, the same list is repaired all over again. What gives?

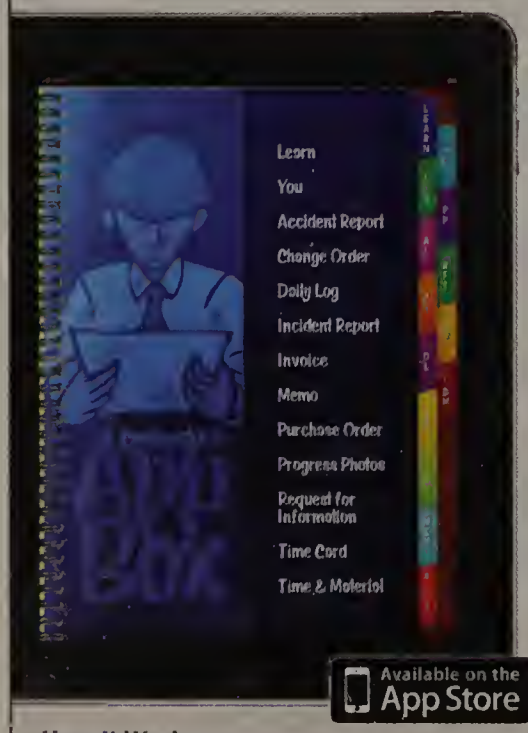
Jason Brunk

A: I can guess with some confidence that the messages you see repeated time and again contain the word *Java*. You might also see this: *Warning: SUID file "System/Library/CoreServices/RemoteManagement/ARDAgent.app/Contents/MacOS/ARDAgent" has been modified and will not be repaired.*

Apple tells us "don't sweat it" in its aptly titled KnowledgeBase article "Mac OS X: Disk Utility's Repair Disk Permissions Messages That You Can Safely Ignore" (support.apple.com/kb/ts1448). After listing scads of these messages, Apple's article ends with this:

"You can safely ignore these messages. You can also usually ignore any 'ACL found but not expected…' message. These messages can occur if you change permissions on a file or directory. These messages are accurate but are generally not a cause for concern."

Populate. Email. Done.



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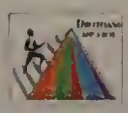

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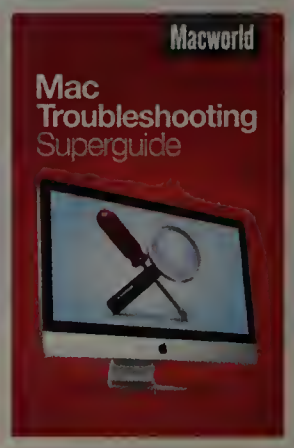

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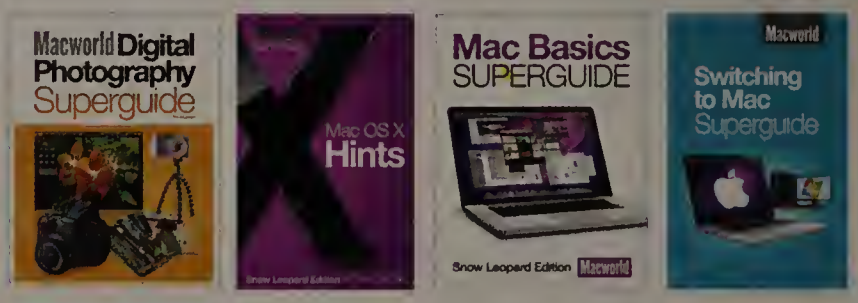

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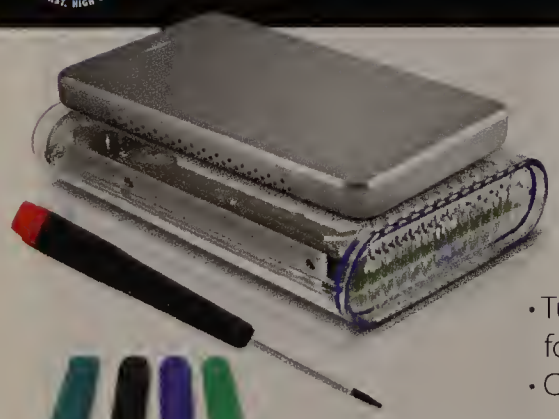

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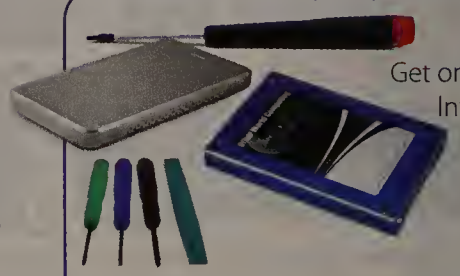

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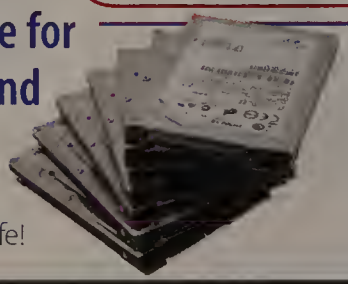

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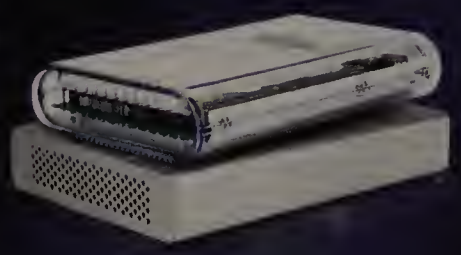

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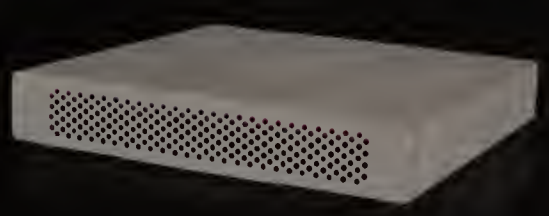

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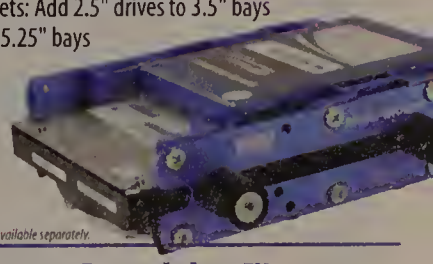

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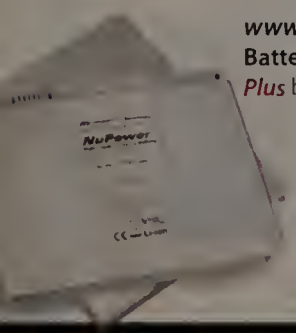

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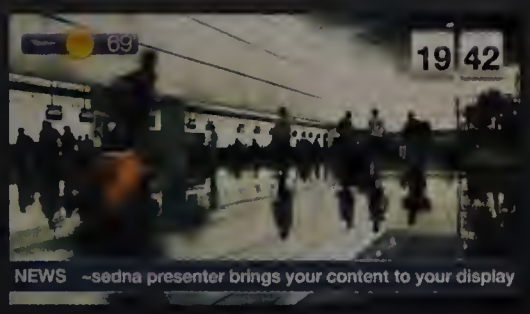

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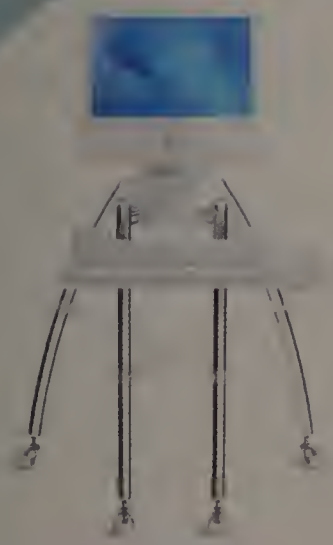

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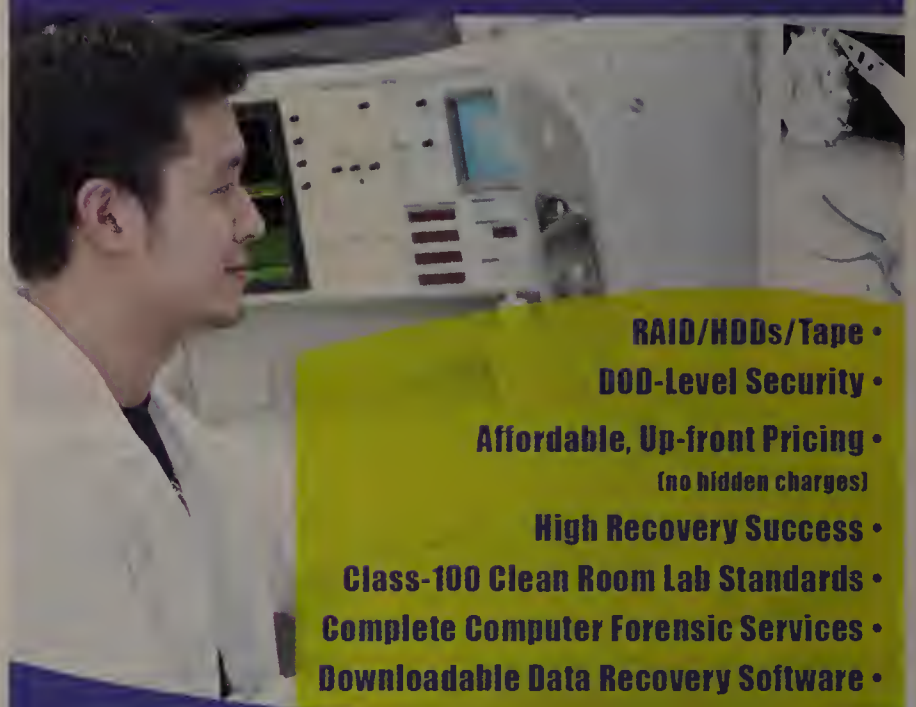

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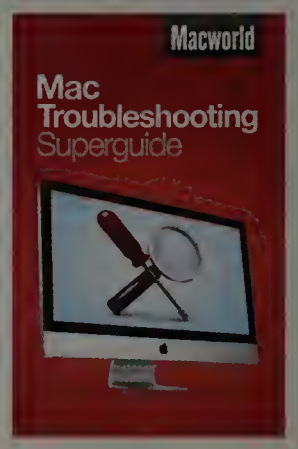

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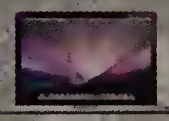

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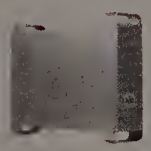

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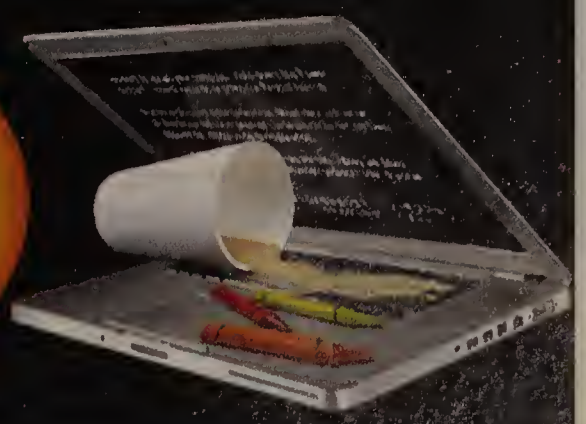

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By Craig Hockenberry

In Praise of the Caps Lock Key

The keyboard on Google's new netbook is missing something crucial

Google's announcement of the charmingly named CR-48 netbook contained a curious bit of news: Its keyboard doesn't follow the layout we all know and love. The familiar Caps Lock key no longer rests comfortably on the left edge of the keyboard. In its place is a key with a magnifying-glass icon, which (logically enough, given the vendor and the icon) is for initiating searches.

Unless you're me, or one of the people who for some reason follow me on Twitter, this might seem like a fairly irrelevant development. But you'd understand why I think it's so serious if you knew about the split personality I have developed online over the past couple of years.

My alter ego—aka CHOCK—knows everything about everything, or at least thinks he does. And this know-it-all only speaks in capital letters, with sketchy spelling and punctuation. Naturally, he uses the Caps Lock key, which he calls the CHOCKLOCK, a lot.

> HEY DONT FORGET TO TELL THEM I INVENTED THE CHOCKLOCK AND ONLY LOSERS CALL IT THE CAPS LOCK WHATEVER THE BLEEP THAT MEANS

(Not only is he upset about the news from Google, he's not particularly happy about being edited for a family-friendly publication.)

It helps to know that the CHOCK "experimented" a lot in the sixties and then learned to program on an IBM mainframe. Let's just say he has a unique perspective on today's technology. He and I don't share much in common, but there is one thing we both love: the keyboard on our computers.

> THOSE CHEAPSKATES AT MACWORLD ARE GETTING TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE I WANT MY CUT

Messing with History

The keyboards we use to interact with our computers have a long history. The original QWERTY layout was designed by Christopher Latham Sholes in 1873. It wasn't until five years later, after the manufacturing rights were sold to E. Remington and Sons, that keyboards enabled typists to use both upper- and lowercase letters, via a Shift key. In the early part of the 20th century, the precursor to the Caps Lock—then called a Shift Lock—was introduced. Its noble purpose: to alleviate pinky fatigue.

> THATS WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR GUNS AND KEYBOARDS HAVE A LOT IN COMMON

Now, 100 years later, Google is messing with that illustrious history. It might seem that Google is doing users a favor with this change: Replacing a key seldom used with one that enables one of the Internet's most common activities. Pressing a single key to initiate Web searches sure seems like it would be a great thing—especially to bigwigs in Mountain View who have figured out that this button could increase their revenues from search-based ad revenue.

What's next: a keyboard without the ⌘, Control, and Escape keys?

> GIMINY CHRISTMAS DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THESE SILLY CON VALLEY NUT JOBS

A Key with Character

But I think the CAPS LOCK has never been more relevant. It lets us goof off on our social networks. It gives us a chance to express excitement over our Internet discoveries: Do we really want to type `omg` instead of `OMG`? Think of all the time that we'd waste typing `barbeque` instead of `BBQ`. And as I've learned from CHOCK, these big letters have proven themselves to be a great vehicle for sounding serious, even when you're not.

Could it be that Google is going to all the trouble and expense of developing the Chrome OS and its new netbook just to coopt this most vital instrument for our online creativity? What's next for the search giant: a keyboard without the ⌘, Control, and Escape keys?

> HOW AM I GOING TO BALANCE MY CHECKBOOK WITHOUT A NUM LOCK

Honestly, I don't want to even consider a world without the Caps Lock key. Imagine an Internet without end-user license agreements, without virtual shouting matches, void of incomprehensible prose and TLAs*. And what are we going to do without a way to easily detect and ignore the most insightful comments on YouTube?

Maybe Google's onto something here after all.

Craig Hockenberry is the author of *iPhone App Development: The Missing Manual* and is a longtime user of Twitter (@chockenberry).

* Three Letter Acronyms.

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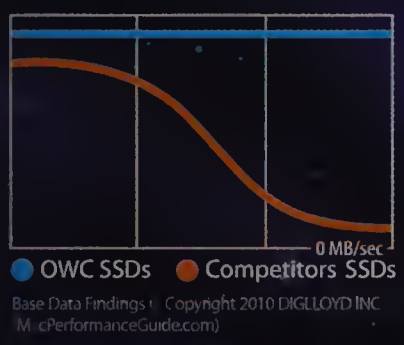

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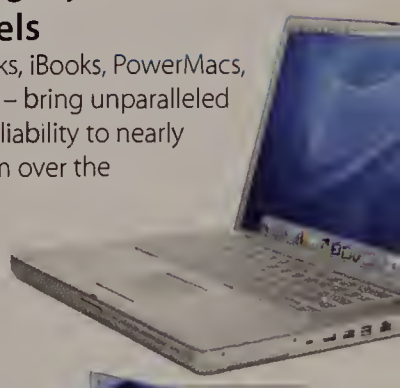

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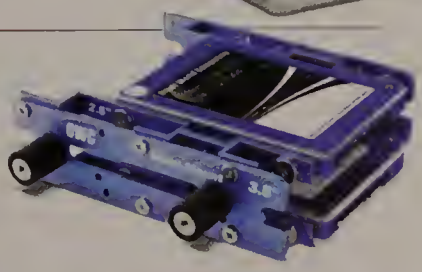

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